

Brit.

492^e

- 18

Linclait

<36624931570012

<36624931570012

Bayer. Staatsbibliothek

THE
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT
OF
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS

OF THE
MINISTERS
OF THE
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

VOLUME EIGHTEENTH.

"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."
CICERO de Orat. lib. ii.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY WILLIAM CREECH;
AND ALSO SOLD BY J. DONALDSON, A. GUTHRIE, W. LAING, AND
JO. AND JA. FAIRBAIRN, EDINBURGH; T. CADELL,
J. DEBRETT, AND J. SEWEL, LONDON;
DUNLOP AND WILSON, GLASGOW; AND
ANGUS AND SON, ABERDEEN.

M,DCC,XCVI.

C O N T E N T S.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Population in 1755,</i>	<i>In 1790-5,</i>	<i>Increase.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>P.</i>
1. Kirkaldy,	2296	2673	377	-	1
2. Scone,	889	1442	553	-	65
3. Gargunnoch,	956	830	- -	126	90
4. Alva,	436	612	176	-	125
5. Duplin and Aberdalgie,	320	523	203	-	149
6. Carmunnock,	471	570	99	-	158
7. Carstairs,	845	924	79	-	176
8. Snizort,	1627	1808	181	-	181
9. West-Calder,	* 1294	1289	- -	5	190
10. East-wood,	1142	2642	1500	-	199
11. Kilisyth,	† 1395	2450	1055	-	214
12. Kippen,	1799	1777	- -	22	317
13. Dudingston,	989	910	- -	79	358
14. St Ninians,	6491	7079	588	-	385
15. Kildrummy,	562	568	6	-	411
16. Borrowstownness,	2668	3178	510	-	423
17. Fossaway and Tulliebole,	1765	1505	- -	260	445
18. Trinity-Gask,	913	795	- -	118	482
19. Perth,	9019	19,871	10,852	-	489
20. Kinnoul,	1163	1465	302	-	540
21. Strathblane,	797	620	- -	177	563
22. Leuchars,	1691	1620	- -	71	585
23. Mary-kirk,	‡ 1285	1481	196	-	608
24. Botriphnie.	§ 953	630	- -	323	644
	41766	57262	16677	1181	
		41766	1181		
Increase in 1790-5		15496	15496		

APPENDIX.

25. Culross, (Vol. x. p. 131.) Religious Houses,	-	649
26. Kirkaldy.—Trial for Witchcraft,	-	653

* There is a mistake in the note, p. 195, with regard to the numbers in 1755, and if the circumstance there mentioned is considered, there is reason to suppose, rather an increase, than a diminution in the number of this parish.

† The numbers in 1755, are stated p. 264, at 1346, 49 below what was then the real number.

‡ The numbers of 1755, are stated p. 618, at 5 below the number given by Dr Webster.

§ There was probably an inaccuracy in Dr Webster's number of this parish, Vide p. 646, and the diminution cannot be supposed to have greatly exceeded 130.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF THE COUNTY OF KINROSS

TOWN OF KINROSS			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92
93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100

THE town of Kinross has been called by the name of Kinross as far back as there are any records of it. It is supposed to have derived its name from the Cuthberts, the family to which it was once allied in the Old Charter, of which it is now a part. It is situated in the county of Kinross, and is one of the most important towns in the county. It is situated on the banks of the Forth, and is one of the most important ports in the county. It is situated on the banks of the Forth, and is one of the most important ports in the county. It is situated on the banks of the Forth, and is one of the most important ports in the county.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART XVIII.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF KIRKALDY.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT FLEMING.

Name, Situation.

THE *town* of Kirkaldy has been called by its present name, as far back as there are any records of it. It is supposed to have derived its name from the Culdees, (the Keldes as they are often called in the Old Charters), of whom it is said to have been a cell *. It is situated in the county of Fife,

VOL. XVIII. A

* This is Sir Robert Sibbald's derivation, in his history of Fife. The word might, with the usual licence of etymology, be derived from the Gaelic; to which language, a great proportion of the names of places in the neighbourhood, and indeed through the whole of Fife, may unquestionably be traced. All names of places beginning with Bal, Col, or Cul, Dal, Drum, Dun, Inch, Inner, Auchter, Kil, Kin, Glen, Mon, and Strath are of Gaelic origin. Those beginning with Aber, and Pit, are supposed to be Pictish names, and do not occur beyond the territory which the Picts are thought to have inhabited.

Fife, on the Frith of Forth, about 10 miles north of Edinburgh. It is the seat of one of the four presbyteries which compose the provincial synod of Fife*; and, alternately with Cupar, the ordinary seat of the synod.

Extent.—The *parish* of Kirkaldy, so called from the town, is a kind of irregular oblong, extending from S. E. to N. W. between 2 and 3 miles, and from N. E. to S. W. about one mile. It is bounded on the S. E. by the Frith, on the N. E. by the parish of Dysart, on the N. W. by the parishes of Dysart and Achterderran, and on the S. W. by the parish of Abbotshall.

This last parish, with the exception of 3 farms which belonged to Kinghorn†, was originally a part of the parsonage of Kirkaldy. In 1649, the presbytery on an application from the heritors, found that a new kirk should be erected in the parish of Kirkaldy, for the accommodation of the parishioners, and recommended to the Commissioners of the Parliament for surrenders and tythes, to carry the erection into effect. The next year, the new parish of Kirkaldy, since called *Abbotshall* was erected; and the parish of Kirkaldy proper, has from that time been confined nearly to the burgh, the burgh acres, and the common land and moor; comprehending in all, an extent of about 870 Scotch acres.

Aspect of the town.—The town of Kirkaldy is situated at the foot of a bank, on the sea-shore, along which it stretches the whole breadth of the parish. It is properly but one long street, with a few lanes of small extent opening on each side of it. The principal part of the street appears to have been originally wider than it is now, many of the houses on both sides

* The other three are, Cupar, St. Andrews, and Dunfermling.

† Easter and Wester Touchs and West Bogie.

sides of it shewing *internal evidence* *, that they have at some time or other been extended beyond their first limits, and that the property of individuals has been enlarged by encroachments on that of the community. At present, the street is narrow, in some places inconveniently so; winding and irregular; deformed by the frequent projection of contiguous houses and stairs; and as the traveller daily feels, wretchedly paved †. The houses are in general mean, awkwardly placed with their ends to the streets, and constructed without any regard to order or uniformity. Of late, however, a better stile of building has begun to be introduced; and different specimens have been given of an improving taste in architecture.

Public Buildings, Town-house.—The only public buildings worthy of notice are, the town-house and the church. The town-house, which was rebuilt in 1678, stands near the middle of the town, and contains the hall in which the magistrates and council assemble for conducting the ordinary business of the burgh. Here too the baillies hold a weekly court for judging in questions between the burgeses; and the justices of the peace have occasional meetings for determining questions of revenue, and discussing petty causes that are brought before them from the surrounding district. Over the town house is the prison, with separate apartments for debtors and criminals; and under it the guard-house, the meal-market, and the public weigh-house. The whole forms a plain building of hewn-stone, ornamented with a tower and spire.

A 2

* Strong beams run along the roofs of the rooms, to support the place of the front wall, which has been brought forward to increase the width of the houses.

† The statute labour of the town is now converted, and the produce left to accumulate for new-paying the streets. Ruinous houses are in some instances rebuilding at such a distance from the street, as to leave it of a decent width.

spire. The tower contains the town-clock and bell, and serves as a repository for the archives of the burgh.

The Church.—The church stands on an elevated situation, on the top of the bank, which rises immediately behind the town. It is a large unshapely pile, that seems to have been reared at different times, to suit the growing population of the parish, and in the construction of which convenience has been more consulted than unity of design or beauty. The nave or body of the church, is in the antient Gothic, or rather the Norman stile of architecture; without buttresses; with low semicircular arches, supported by short thick columns, and having aisles behind them. The choir is fitted up in common with the nave for the reception of the parishioners; and a large wing has been added for their farther accommodation. Close to one end of the church stands the steeple; which in its original form was a plain, and not unhandsome square tower with a cornice, above which it was covered with a roof. But it has been raised beyond its original height, by the addition of a smaller, and a very disproportionate tower, terminating in a pyramid.

The Sands.—On the one side of the town, the sea is separated from it by a beach of firm and level sand; on which the inhabitants have always, excepting at the height of the tide, a safe and agreeable walk; and by which the traveller may generally avoid the uneasy jolting of a long and rugged pavement. As the sand continues firm and smooth, and the ground shelves gradually for a great way into the sea, this place is peculiarly favourable for sea bathing; for which purpose there has been for some years an increasing resort to it, during the months of summer and harvest.

Aspect

Aspect of the Parish.—On the other side of the town, the country immediately joins it, and rises by a gentle but varied ascent, almost to the opposite extremity of the parish.——Taking the parish by itself, the face of it presents little to the view that claims particular notice. In the vicinity of the town, where the soil is light and dry, and very susceptible of cultivation, the fields are in general inclosed, and in a regular course of tillage; and exhibit an appearance in no small degree pleasing.——Farther back, the ground has been more recently brought into culture; and the soil appears to be less kindly in its nature, and less susceptible of improvement. But an extensive proprietor, Mr Oswald of Dunnikeer, having now built a mansion house on a fine commanding site, in the center of the grounds which are at present the least cultivated*, the plan of cultivation and of ornament which he has begun, will soon improve the appearance of that part of the parish. In the prospect of building, that gentleman sometime ago inclosed and planted a romantic valley, which stretches from the east end of Kirkaldy towards the site of his new house. This valley is now beginning to be closely and beautifully wooded: Fanciful walks, partly of turf, and partly of gravel, are cut through it in different directions. To these the more respectable inhabitants of the town are indulged with access; and enjoy in this respect an advantage which the vicinity of few towns can furnish.

Relative Situation.—If this parish, taken by itself, affords but little to admire in its general appearance, the defect is abundantly supplied by its relative situation.—Commanding from different points, a full prospect of the adjacent country, from Dysart on the east, to the green-topped hills of Glasmount

* The Burgh moor.

Glasmount on the west; and the eye embracing within that range the prosperous town of Path-head, with the once royal castle of Ravensheugh*, seated on a cliff overhanging the sea; the town and harbour of Kirkaldy; the industrious town of Linktown, with the modern church of Abbotshall; the high-placed mansion, the picturesque grounds, and the extensive improvements, of Mr Ferguson of Raith;—and having extended before it the Frith of Forth, skirted by the coast of Lothian from Edinburgh to North-Berwick, diversified by the islands of Inch-Keith, Bass, and May, and enlivened by a constant succession of ships of all burdens, passing and repassing on their destined voyages:—The parish of Kirkaldy thus situated, forms part of a scene, in which the beauties of external nature, and interesting displays of the operation of mind, are in no ordinary degree united.

Air and Climate.—Ascending N.W. from the head of the bay which is called by its name, this parish lies much exposed to the easterly winds. These, especially during the latter part of spring, blow frequently, and bring up from the sea, a thick disagreeable haze, that renders the air moist and piercingly cold. But as the westerly winds prevail, during at least two thirds of the year, the air is upon the whole dry, kindly and wholesome.

Diseases.—It may be owing partly to this cause, that there are few diseases which can properly be said to prevail here; and that even these few are seldom marked with any peculiar symptoms of violence. The most prevalent disease is the chronic rheumatism, which chiefly affects the aged, and even these chiefly among those classes which are exposed to hard labour.

* Or Ravenscraig.—See account of Dysart.

labour in the open air. A species of fever with nervous symptoms, but of no distinct or regular type, has some years been frequent, particularly in the beginning of winter, and in spring. Children have been more subject to it than adults. Children are frequently and fatally affected by the disease which is called the croup. Instances of consumptions now and then occur, chiefly in young females. The palsy, which not long ago was so rare, as to have been vulgarly accounted a special visitation of God, is now by no means uncommon. Scrophulous taints are not much known here; and the measles, small-pox, and other epidemical eruptives are observed to be usually milder than even in the neighbouring parishes. Innoculation for the small-pox is practised with the happiest effect. The religious scruples, which long prevented the general use of this salutary invention, are every day diminishing; the body of the people yielding to the impression of that convincing attestation in favour of it, which Divine Providence has given in its signal success.

Longevity.—The inhabitants in general are healthy; and many of them attain a good old age. It is no unsatisfying proof of this, that in four years preceeding 1793, there lived in the parish 47 persons who reached the age of 80, the full half of which number were alive at one time; that in five years preceding 1791, four instances occurred in which the marriage relation had subsisted above half a century; and that on an average of 14 years preceding 1788, the annual burials were but as 1 to 59 of the population.

Population.—On the first day of January 1790, there were in the town of Kirkaldy 646 families, containing 2607 souls; in the country parish, 15 families, containing 66 souls; in the

the whole parish, 661 families, containing 2673 souls*: of whom 521 were under, and 2152 above, 8 years of age.—Of those who were above that age, 908 were males, and 1244 females. The proportion of souls to a family was $4\frac{1}{4}$ in the town, $4\frac{2}{3}$ in the country, $4\frac{1}{3}$ in the whole parish.

Division of the Inhabitants in 1790.—The inhabitants, reckoning those only who had families, or who did business on their own account, were in general divided in the following manner:

Proprietors residing	7	Saddler	1
—— non-residing *	4	Candlemaker	1
Ministers	2	Sellers of stone ware	4
Preachers	2	Keepers of inns and licen-	
Merchants, traders, and		fed houses for ale and	
shopkeepers	36	spirits	31
Seafaring men	34	Brewers	2
Farmers, who have no other		Smiths and founders	10
employment	2	Watchmakers	3
Medical men	5	Masons and plasterers	19
Officers who have served in		House carpenters	25
the navy	5	Ship carpenters	7
Do. who have served in the		Coopers	2
army	4	Painters	2
Officers of the customs and		Weavers	56
salt office	11	Stocking weavers	4
Officers of excise	3	Dyers	4
Writers	4	Hecklers	9
Bookseller	1	Tanners and curriers	8
Schoolmasters	3	Shoemakers	13
		Tailors	

* The return to Dr. Webster in 1755 made the population 2296.

† Besides there are 3 corporate bodies which have property.

Tailors	10	Male farm servants	14
Salterers	2	Female do.	3
Glover	1	Female teachers	5
Butchers	4	Mantua-makers	4
Bakers	12	Milleners	4
Barbers	4	Midwives	3
Cork-cutters	2	Widows with families	73
Gardeners	7	Single householders, chiefly females	70
Carters, many of whom occupy a few acres of land	30	Young persons of both sexes at school, about	250
Carriers	3	— at the university	2
Land labourers and hired servants with families	61	Merchants clerks, not apprentices	9
Male domestic servants	8		
Female do.	217		

In this table, the distinctions are not always precise. The class of merchants includes the principal manufacturers. Some of the shop-keepers have other employments, and are introduced under other names. The farmers inserted are those only who have no other specific character.

State of Husbandry.—Of those who are more or less engaged in husbandry, the whole number, including 5 proprietors, is 25. Many of these occupy but a few acres, which they cultivate for the sake of accommodation more than of gain. This circumstance is not favourable to good husbandry. The spring of interest is too slightly touched, to produce that regular exertion which is necessary to success.

Some other object engages the first care; and the few acres are neglected. At any rate, if they answer the purpose of convenience for which they are held, the melioration of them is little attended to. This, however, is not always the case. Some who occupy small portions of land, have been

at pains to improve them. And the land which is possessed in any considerable quantity, is in general cultivated with attention and success.

Means of cultivation.—The means of cultivation are here obtained with little difficulty. The stables and streets of the town afford a regular supply of manure; but what is collected from the streets is less valuable, on account of a mixture of sand which it receives from the houses of the ordinary class of inhabitants, whose floors are frequently covered with it.—Lime is to be had at a short distance, and at a moderate expence; but it has hitherto been sparingly used, particularly on the lands lying nearest to the town; in the idea that the soil is too light and warm to permit it to be used with safety. Sea-weeds furnish an occasional accession of valuable manure, but in a quantity that bears no proportion to the extensive demand for it.

Improvements in Husbandry.—The mode of culture has of late undergone some important alterations. The *tillage* is improved; to which drilling and hoeing, now much used in all crops, have not a little contributed. Green crops are introduced; and the proportion of land employed in them is every year increasing. The *rotation* of crops is better regulated; the alternate succession of culmiferous and leguminous crops being pretty generally attended to. The *implements* of husbandry are improved; particularly the plough. Of this valuable instrument, two kinds are employed; the common Scotch plough, which begins to be better constructed than formerly, and the chain-plough introduced by Small of Blackadder-mount. The former is still the most prevalent; for of 24 ploughs used in the parish, 17 are of this kind, and 7 of the other. The ploughs are all drawn by horses, generally two

two in each, guided by the ploughman. Oxen, though equally adapted to the purposes of husbandry when managed with skill, though less expensive in the purchase and the maintenance, though equally, if not more durable, and though vastly more valuable, when unfit for work, are here in total disuse; and nearly so in the whole surrounding district.

Cattle and Carriages.—The number of horses employed in the parish is 139; of which 94 are kept for work, 28 for the saddle, and 17 for carriages. The carriages are 9 in number*, 2 coaches and 7 post-chaises. Of these a coach, and 5 chaises are kept for hire. The number of carts is 73. The number of milk-cows is 98. Some individuals have been at pains to improve their breed of cows, and with good success. But cows are here kept less for breeding than for their milk, which is sold in the town with great advantage. They are commonly fed in the house; the land near the town being too valuable to permit much of it to be employed in pasture.

Rent.—The rent of land, situated near the town, runs from three to four pounds the acre; and decreases, with the distance, down to half a guinea. As the greater part of the parish is cultivated by proprietors, the rent of the whole cannot be certainly known: but it is computed at L. 1250 sterling; which is to L. 1320 Scots, the valued rent, nearly as 11 to 1. There is no map of the parish; but most of it has been surveyed: and the whole, exclusive of the ground covered by the town, extends to about 830 acres. Of these about 10

B 2

acres

* Since the above was written, the number of carriages has diminished two thirds.

acres are moss, 11 waste-land and roads, 130 planted, 327 sown out in pasture, 32 garden ground, and 270 in tillage.

Crops, and times of Sowing and Reaping.—The crops usually raised on the land in tillage are; *wheat*, sown from the beginning of October to the end of November, and reaped from the 12th to the end of August;—*barley*, sown from the 1st to the 20th May, and reaped from the middle of August to the beginning of October;—*oats*, sown from the 20th March to the 20th April, and reaped from the 20th August to the beginning of October;—*beans*, sown from the 10th to the 20th March, and reaped from the 12th September to the 12th of October;—*potatoes*, planted from the 20th April to the beginning of May, and dug up from the 12th to the end of October;—*turnips*, commonly sown about the 20th June;—*clover*, and generally a small proportion of rye-grass with it, sown from the 20th April to the end of May; and always sown with grain, which is sometimes wheat, sometimes oats, but ofteneft barley.

Produce and Value.—The following table will shew the proportions in which these several crops were raised in 1792, with the value of the produce, estimated on the average of the seven preceeding years.

TABLE

TABLE of CROPS in 1792.

Crops.	Acres under each crop.	Bolls produced per acre.	Average value of the boll.	Total value per acre.	Total bolls produced.	Total value.
			L. s. d.	L. s. d.		L. s.
Wheat,	13	10	1 1	10 10	130	136 10
Barley,	72	9	0 15	6 15	648	486 0
Oats,	54	8	0 12	4 16	432	259 4
Beans,	24	9	0 12 6	6	216	135 0
Potatoes,	35	50	0 50	12 10	1750	137 10
Turnip,	25			8		200 0
Clover,	47			3		376 0
327 Acres of sown grafs used in pasture at L. 1 per acre.						327
Many of the inhabitants have small gardens adjoining to their houses. These may amount together to 20 acres, and the annual produce of them may be estimated at L. 10 per acre; the whole,						200
There are 12 acres of garden ground cultivated for sale, the produce of which may be estimated at L. 20 per acre.						240
Total gross value of the annual produce of the ground						2497 4
From which deduce $\frac{3}{8}$ for the expence of seed, labour, and manures,						936 9
Free produce, including the rent,						1560 15

Minerals.—Besides the produce of the surface of the ground, this parish yields free-stone, iron-stone, and pit-coal. At present, however, there is little or no increase of value derived from these sources. The *free-stone* is dug merely for the use of the parish*. The *iron stone* is found in the coal-pits, and the working of it depends on that of the coal. Different seams

* The parish does not furnish all the stones that are employed in building. The best houses are built from the quarries of Bruntisland, Long-Annet, or Culello;—which last, though but lately opened, promises, on account of its superior texture, colour, and solidity, to be in much request.

seams of coal from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick were formerly wrought; but they have for sometime been exhausted above the draining level. They continue, and are supposed to be more valuable, below the level; but the expence of machinery for draining, has hitherto prevented the working of them.—At present, the inhabitants are supplied from the coaleries of Dysart, belonging to Sir James St. Clair Erskine, or of Cluny, belonging to Mr Ferguson of Raith. The former is distant from Kirkaldy about 2 miles, the latter about 4. At the former, 2 *metes*, about $9\frac{1}{2}$ cwt of small coals or *cheus*, the kind generally used for home consumption, are sold for 2s. 1d. and the expence of carriage to Kirkaldy is 1s: At the latter, 3 *loads*, weighing about $9\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. are sold at 1s. 6d. and the expence of carriage is 2s. There is a depot of Cluny coals kept at Kirkaldy for exportation; from which about 600 tons have been annually shipped during the last 5 or 6 years, partly for Hamburgh, but chiefly for Middleburg, where the Cluny *splint* is said to have the preference of every other species of Scotch coal. As there is now a turnpike road from Cluny to this place, it is probable that the quantity of coal exported from it will increase.

Turnpikes.—Turnpikes begin to be generally introduced in this part of the county. The erection of toll-bars, and the imposition of the highest toll which the law permits to be exacted before a foot of road was made, excited at first, a prejudice against them. But in proportion as the roads have been put in repair, the prejudice has abated: And there can be no doubt, that if the interest of the public is sufficiently consulted in fixing the courses of the roads, the introduction of turnpikes will, on the whole, be beneficial*.

History

* By an act of Parliament, for making and repairing roads in the county of Fife, the trustees appointed to carry it into execution are empowered, inter

History of the Burgh.—It is probable that the local advantages of vicinity to fuel, to land capable of producing grain, and above all to the sea, so favourable to subsistence and so necessary to commerce, brought men at first to settle at this place. It is not known, however, at what particular time the town was built; nor are there any traces of its history before it became one of the regality burghs of the lordship of Dunfermling. It was mortified A. D. 1334, by David II. to the

alia, "to widen the roads to any breadth they shall think proper, not exceeding 40 feet; and for that purpose to pull down and demolish any house or building, as well *within* royal burghs as without the same; paying such damages to the owners or occupiers, as the *said trustees* shall judge reasonable."

These powers are complained of: 1st, As unprecedented and unknown in the other counties: 2d, As trenching on the chartered rights of royal burghs; the internal government of which is, by charters ratified by parliament, vested in their own proper magistrates: 3d, As affecting the security of private property, which is thus left, in certain circumstances, to be seized without the consent of the owner, and without any other compensation to him, than what the very persons who are to seize on it *judge reasonable*. It is true, there lies an appeal on the value of the property to the Justices of the Peace in their general sessions. But as the Justices are trustees, and in point of influence, the principal trustees under the road act, the appeal is nearly from one description to another description of the same persons. If the public convenience at times require that the property of individuals should be sacrificed to it; justice surely requires that those, whose property is affected, should be fully indemnified, and that too in the way in which they are most likely to be satisfied that the indemnification is adequate,—the verdict of a jury.

The consideration of the effect which the powers conveyed by the act alluded to might, if exercised to their full extent, produce on Kirkaldy, has given rise to these reflections. Kirkaldy is properly but one long street, through which the great county road at present passes. As the greater part of this street is under 40 feet broad, the trustees have it in their power, if *they shall think proper*, to bring it to the full statutory breadth, at the expence of half a mile of demolished houses; the owners of which would be obliged to rest satisfied with what damages the trustees, or in the last resort, the justices, should think reasonable.

the abbots of Dunfermling successively ; in whose possession it continued till A. D. 1450, when the commendator and convent, by indentures made with the baillies and community of Kirkaldy, disposed to them and their successors for ever, the burgh and harbour, burgh acres, the small customs, common pasture in the moor, courts, &c.

Chartered Privileges.—It was soon after erected into a royal burgh, with the customary privileges: And these were specifically ratified by a charter of confirmation granted by Charles I. in 1644; and the burgh, *for good and gratuitous service* done by it, erected *de novo* into a free royal burgh and free port, and new and larger immunities granted it. Among its privileges were enumerated, the powers expressly given to the baillies, counsellors and community, of electing and constituting annual magistrates for the administration of justice and the government of the burgh; of uplifting customs and applying them to the public good; of holding courts; of seizing and incarcerating, and punishing delinquents; with which were conjoined various other privileges expressed in the barbarous language, and some of them conceived in the barbarous spirit of the times; such as herezelds, bludewits, merchetæ mulierum, fork, fols, fok, fak, thoill, thame, wraick, vert, weth, wair, venyson, in-fangtheif, outfangtheif, pit and gallows, &c. *.

Though there be no authentic record of the state of Kirkaldy, at the time it was disjoined from the lordship of Dunfermling, or first erected unto a royal burgh, it may be warrantably supposed, that before either of these events could happen, the place must have attained to some importance. Previous to the union of Scotland with England, its commerce
and

* Charter of confirmation.

and navigation were in a great measure confined to the towns which lay on both sides of the Frith of Forth. These had early applied themselves to the business of fishing*, which their favourable situation enabled them to prosecute with vigour and success. And so distinguished were those of them especially which lay on the north side of the frith, that when James VI. in 1602 planted a colony in Lewis, to introduce the fishing trade among the Western islands, the colony was drawn from the coasts of Fife†. The towns on the Frith of Forth too had almost the exclusive possession of the trade with the Low Countries, at that time the only branch of commerce of any importance, and were carriers for nearly the whole of the northern part of the United Kingdom.

State in 1644.—Of the advantages derived from both these branches of commerce, Kirkaldy appears to have enjoyed a principal share. Tradition relates that, when Charles I. erected it anew into a royal burgh in 1644, it had an hundred sail of ships belonging to it. And the tradition is supported, by an authentic account, preserved among the records of the burgh, of losses sustained betwixt that time and the Restoration. From this account, in which the master's name, and the separate value of each ship are particularly specified, it appears, that 94 ships belonging to this port, were during that period either lost at sea, or taken by the enemy.

There are other circumstances too, which serve to shew

VOL. XVIII.

C

that,

* As early as the ninth century, the inhabitants of the Netherlands resorted to the coasts of Scotland, to purchase salted fish from the natives; of whom they learned the trade, which the Dutch have since pursued with so much national advantage.—Anderson's History of Commerce.

† Robertson's History of Scotland.

that, during a considerable part of the last century, Kirkaldy was in a very flourishing state.

Early Population.—1. The population of the parish was equal, or most probably superior, to what it is at present. During a period of 14 years, commencing with 1616, the yearly average of registered births was 121; which would make the population, computing it as 26 to 1 of the births, to have been 3146. For some time after, the numbers appear to have increased rapidly. In 1643 the accommodation of the parish required a new wing to be added to the church; and in 1650 it was found necessary to make a new erection *. The annual average of births, for 10 years immediately preceding the date of that erection, was 174 $\frac{1}{5}$, which made the whole population about 4540; and for the same space of time immediately following it, 115; which made the population 2990. From this statement it appears, that, supposing the whole inhabitants to be as 26 to 1 of the births, the parish of Kirkaldy was more populous, for some time after its first reduction to its present limits, than it is at this day. And were the estimate to be made by the proportion which the present number of inhabitants actually bears to the annual births, the difference in the population of that time would appear to have been very considerable †.

2. The

* See page 2d.

† The above rule for computing the population of a parish or district from the births, is suggested in “*Queries for the purpose of elucidating the Natural History and Political State of Scotland*, circulated by Sir John Sinclair.” In this parish, however, the computation falls short of the real proportion. The number of registered births in 1790 was 60; and on an average of the 20 preceding years, 50. But, as the registration of births has for some time
past

2. The contributions which were then made for purposes of charity, and still more for the support of the state, shew the place to have been respectable. In 1622, when the General Assembly of the protestant churches in France deputed Bafnage to the King of Great Britain, to solicit aid for resisting the oppression of Lewis XIII. the town and parish of Kirkaldy contributed, *according to the gudewill and permission of the King*, a pecuniary aid of 1030 merks *. During a period of 12 years, from 1634 to 1645, at which time money was so valuable as to bear interest at 9 per cent. the weekly collections at the church doors were greater than they are at present; the average amounting to L. 73 : 10 ; while that of the same number of years preceding 1791 does not exceed L. 63 9s. 4d.

Public Assessments.—In all public assessments, the town was rated as the sixth burgh, and assessed in the proportion of 1 to 40 of the whole supplies levied from the burghs of Scotland †. For several years before and after 1650, the monthly assessments laid on it, for the maintenance of troops, exceed-

C 2

ed

past been much neglected, let one half more be added for births not entered, and the whole annual births will, on an average of 20 years, be 75 ; which, compared with the actual numbers, is nearly in the proportion of 1 to 35. Estimated by this proportion, the population from 1650 to 1660 would exceed 4000.

There is no public register of burials. But by a very exact list kept by the grave-digger for his own use, it appears, that the average of burials for 14 years preceding 1788 was $44\frac{1}{2}$, which is to the population nearly as 1 to 59.

* Bafnage's receipt is engrossed in the minutes of the kirk-sessions.

† See the acts of the Convention of Estates from 1665 to 1678, and subsequent acts of Parliament. The burghs which were rated higher were Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Perth, and at first St. Andrews; but the assessment of that burgh gradually fell to a fourth part of that of Kirkaldy.

ed at an average L. 400 *. In 1667, the Convention of Estates assessed it, for defraying the expence of the war which Charles II. had declared against the Dutch, in the sum of L. 228 monthly for 12 months; over and above its proportion of the supply of L. 480,000 which the Parliament had granted to the King for life, and of the further supply of L. 133,000, which a former Convention had granted him for 5 years. And the same sum of L. 228, it continued to pay monthly, sometimes for 5 months, sometimes for 8 months in the year, as the exigencies of the state required.

Effects of the Civil War.—About the middle of the century, indeed, the prosperity of this place received a considerable check. The quarrel of the Parliament of England with Charles I. having in 1643 extended to Scotland, the inhabitants of Kirkaldy had taken a decided part in it.—Feeling that love of independence which the commercial spirit generates, and interested in having the fruits of their industry secured from the gripe of arbitrary power, they had early espoused the side of liberty: And notwithstanding the conciliating exercise of the royal prerogative, in renewing and extending their charter in 1644, they had entered warmly into the views of the Parliament. The Solemn League and Covenant was publicly sworn, and subscribed. And numbers, especially of the seamen, joined the army of the Covenanters, and were present at the battle of Kilsyth †, in the event of which

* Collectors lists still existing.

† A. D. 1645. The records of the kirk-session about this time, contain many facts, that serve to shew how deeply this parish was interested in the cause of the Parliament. Public prayers were offered up for its success; and every advantage gained to it was celebrated with thanksgiving. The families of

which this place suffered the loss of many of its most active inhabitants.—That unhappy event was followed by a succession of misfortunes. No less than 58 ships, belonging to this port, were either taken or lost at sea, before the English invasion in 1650; and from that time to the Restoration, 36 ships more were taken, many of them with cargoes; making in all (as stated in page 17.) 94 ships, the value of which is ascertained, by a particular appretiation contained in the account of losses already mentioned, to have amounted to the sum of L. 53,791 sterling. A considerable number of these ships were taken in the harbour of Dundee, when that town was stormed and sacked by General Monk; at which time, too, effects belonging to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy which had been deposited at Dundee as a place of security, were carried away or destroyed, to the value nearly of L. 5000 *. Besides this, different individuals suffered the loss of money, which they had lent to the Committee of Estates for the public service, but which on the establishment of the Commonwealth it was impossible to recover †. In consequence of these heavy losses, and the still greater loss of 480 men killed in the

of those who had joined the army, were many of them assisted by public contributions. Deserters were cited before the kirk-session: there is an instance of nine of them being called before it in one day, and ordained to return to their colours under pain of excommunication. A person was summoned before the presbytery, for *calling the cause of God presently in hand, the Devil's cause, as he troved*. Different persons who, during the success of Montrose at Perth, had been induced to declare for the King, appeared before the kirk-session, and professed their sorrow for their conduct. After the battle of Kilsyth, the date of which, and of Philiphaugh, is marked on the margin of the record, horses for transporting the wounded, necessaries, medicines, and attendance, were at different times paid for out of the parish funds.

* A particular account of its loss is preserved among the burgh records.

† Both these facts are annexed to the account of losses at sea.

the course of the war *, the commerce and shipping of Kirkaldy were deeply affected. And through the subsequent interruption of the trade with Holland, during three successive wars with that country, aided perhaps by the unfriendly influence of an arbitrary government on the general spirit and exertions of the people, the place continued to languish during the usurpation of Cromwell, and the despotic reigns of Charles II. and his successor James. In 1673 the number of ships belonging to it had fallen to 25. And in 1682 its distress was so great, that application was made to the Convention of burghs to consider its poverty, and to take methods for easing it as to its public burdens. But the burgh having fallen under the displeasure of the Court, on account of the opposition given by its representative to the arbitrary measures which were then carrying on, the inhabitants were not only denied relief, but further burdened by an addition of 2000 merks to their annual assessment †. The application to the Convention was however renewed in 1687, when a visitation of the burgh was ordered. A committee appointed for that purpose met at Kirkaldy the following year; and, on the evidence of the books and declarations both of the magistrates of the burgh and the officers of the customs, reported, *inter alia*, to the Convention, “ that the customs payable
 “ to his Majesty were not the half of what they had been some
 “ years before : that this was occasioned by the death of many
 “ substantial merchants and skippers, and loss of ships and
 “ decay of trade : that many of the inhabitants, some of
 “ whom were magistrates of the burgh, had fled from and
 “ deserted the same : that so great was the poverty of the in-
 “ habitants,

* It is said that the battle of Kilsyth alone left 200 widows in Kirkaldy.

† Stated in a petition to King William.

“habitants, that all the taxations imposed on the town could
“do no more than pay the eight months cefs payable to the
“king yearly, and that with difficulty, &c. *”

Revolution in 1688.—Before the effect of this representation could be known, the Revolution took place ; an event highly grateful to the Scots in general, and particularly to the *whigs of Fife*. The inhabitants of Kirkaldy, entering warmly into the spirit of it, and anxious to distinguish themselves in the support of it, found means to apprehend the Earl of Perth, who was Lord Chancellor, and had managed the affairs of Scotland under James; and who knowing that he was generally obnoxious on account of the cruelties which he had practised on the Presbyterians, withdrew himself as soon as the public mind had declared in favour of the Prince of Orange. After detaining that nobleman in prison 5 days and 5 nights, under a constant guard of 300 men, they sent him under a convoy of 3 boats manned with 200 hands to Alloa, where they delivered him *on receipt* into the custody of the Earl of Mar. The guard of 300 men they found it necessary to keep up for 4 months, on receiving information that a force was coming from the Highlands to burn the town, in revenge for Perth’s apprehension.—These facts, and a particular account of their losses, having been stated in a petition to King William in 1689 †, they obtained an abatement of L.*1000 Scots of their annual assessments. And the Revolution having happily diffused ease and freedom and security, and with these a spirit of industry and commercial exertion, through

* Copy of the report of the commission of visitation *penes* town-council.

† In this petition, the inhabitants offered to instruct, that their losses during the distracted state of the country amounted to L. 800,000 Scots, or L. 66,666 : 13 : 4 Sterling.

through the country in general, the languishing trade of Kirkaldy revived, and wealth began again to circulate among the inhabitants. As one indication of this, the public collections at the church doors, which, on an average of 10 years preceding 1688, amounted only to L. 58:3:1, and on that year fell to L. 42:18:7½, produced annually for 4 years, commencing with 1693, L. 125:7:10; and L. 110 8s. 2d. on an average of 15 years from 1693 to the Union.

Effects of the Union.—This last event, whatever advantages have been ultimately derived from it to the nation at large, was long considered as an æra of misfortune and distress to the trade of Scotland. Taxes, which by the treaty of union were laid on many of the necessaries of life, the duties and customs which were imposed on various articles of merchandise, and the numerous restrictions with which the English contrived, in the narrow spirit of commercial monopoly, to fetter the trade of Scotland in general, were quickly and severely felt over the whole of this part of the united kingdom. Commerce every where declined; in spite of the attempts which were made to support it by the wretched resource of smuggling. It suffered particularly in the towns on the Frith of Forth; many of which were quickly reduced to distress, and all of them languished. This town was involved in the common fate. Its shipping, on which it had till then entirely depended, fell rapidly into decay; and the several wars, which followed each other with little intermission for more than half a century, having continued the effect which the disadvantageous terms of the Union had begun, the trade of this place was at last so much reduced, that in

I

1760,

1760, it employed no more than one coaster of 50 tons and two ferry-boats, each of 30 *.

On the return of peace in 1763, the shipping immediately revived. By the 1772, it had increased to 11 vessels, carrying 515 tons and 49 men; and although its progress was retarded by the war with America, it amounted, at the close of that war, to 12 vessels, carrying 750 tons and 59 men. —From that time, it has made constant and rapid advances.

Present State of the Shipping — At present †, it consists of 26 square rigged vessels ‡, 1 sloop, and 2 ferry-boats, carrying by the register 3700 tons, about 5000 tons dead weight, employing 225 men to navigate them, and worth, when clear to sail, about L. 30,000. One or two of the small vessels are employed as coasters, and trade either to Aberdeen or London; carrying to the former, salt and coals; to the latter, the manufactures of the district; and returning from both with goods, chiefly for this port and Leith. All the other ships are employed either in the foreign trade for home consumption, or in the carrying trade. Some of the largest of them are employed in the trade to the Mediterranean, the West Indies, and America; and of these some have been occasionally absent from this place for 3 or 4 years. But the greater number is employed in the trade to Holland and the Baltic. To these the only article of export is coals, shipped here, at Dysart, Wemyss, and other ports on the Frith; and the chief articles imported from them are corn, flax, flax-seed, linen-yarn,

VOL. XVIII.

D

yarn,

* Copy Report of the custom house here to the Board of customs. A. D. 1760.

† A. D. 1792.

‡ One of the ships was built in 1725.

yarn, wood, iron, ashes, bark, hides, tallow, clover-feed, apples, cheese, geneva, &c.

Custom-House.—The duties payable on exports and imports in all the towns on the north side of the Frith of Forth, from Aberdeen to Largo inclusive*, are under the management of the custom-house at this port; the business of which is conducted by a collector with principal and junior clerks, a comptroller, a land surveyor, 3 land waiters and 14 tidesmen. The office has also the management of the salt duties within the same district; the collection of which employs 1 supervisor, 7 officers and 20 watchmen. In 1792, 101 vessels were cleared out at the custom-house, and 92 entered; 13 of the ships cleared out, and 43 of those entered, belonged to Kirkaldy.

Duties.—The whole duties paid on exports in that year amounted to L. 2570 : 10 : 4½; on imports to L. 2227 : 3 : 7½; on

* The whole shipping of the above district stood as in the following table at the different periods referred to.

Ports.	In 1760.			In 1772.			In 1782.			In 1792.		
	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
Kirkaldy,	3	110	11	11	515	49	12	750	59	29	3700	225
Dysart,	7	580	50	14	1365	115	10	1210	84	25	3926	231
Wemyss,	1	130	9	2	200	17	6	315	26	6	752	49
Melville & Leven,	6	460	38	8	540	53	1	100	7	8	655	48
Kinghorn, including ferry-boats,	15	760	80	18	805	86	12	405	48	15	663	57
Burntisland,	10	1135	93	10	615	63	3	100	11	6	257	21
Aberdour,	18	940	88	4	215	20	4	150	12	5	349	21
	60	4115	369	67	4255	403	48	3030	247	94	10,302	652

on both to L. 4797 : 14 ; of this sum, the exports from Kirkaldy produced L. 244 : 18 ; the imports into it L. 1187 : 3 : 7½ ; total L. 1432 : 1 : 7½. The duties on salt for the same year amounted to L. 5542 : 10 : 6 ; which, added to the duties on exports and imports, made the whole revenue paid at this custom-house for that year L. 10,340 : 4 : 6.

Linen Manufactures.—The prosperity of this place, which was at first begun, and for a long time entirely supported by shipping and commerce, has of late been greatly promoted by manufactures ; and particularly by the manufacture of linen. The kinds of linen manufactured here are bed-ticks, chequered and striped linens, with a mixture of cotton in some of them, and a low-priced species of plain linen. These appear to have been taken from the models of Holland and Flanders ; the names which some of the fabrics still bear, such as, striped Hollands, Dutch checks, Dutch ticks, Flanders checks and ticks, pointing their origin to the Low Countries. The particular time at which the manufacture of these articles was introduced, is not exactly known ; but they can be traced back to the commencement of this century. And probability seems to support the opinion that they were introduced earlier ; perhaps between the middle of the last century and the Revolution, when the declension of their navigation and trade, forced the inhabitants to have recourse to new ways of employing their industry.

Manufactures, however, made but little progress here, till the foreign trade had again declined in consequence of the Union. In 1733, the whole amount of cloth stamped at Kirkaldy *, was no more than 177,740 yards. In 1743, it

D 2

had

* By an act of Parliament in 1717, no linen cloth can be sold or exposed to sale, till it has been inspected and stamped,—under the penalty of L. 5 on the

had increased to 316,550, the computed value of which amounted to nearly L. 11,000 *. And, although during the commotions of 1745 and 1746, the sale of manufactures was in a great degree suspended, yet that circumstance did not much affect their progress. They continued to be diligently prosecuted, and gradually to increase, till the war of 1755 interrupted the communication with America and the West Indies, at that time, almost the only market for the goods of this district. The effects of that interruption, the interval of peace that succeeded was not sufficient entirely to remove. From the value of L. 22,000, to which the manufactures of the district had in some former years risen, they fell in 1773 to L. 15,000; and the next year still lower. Such indeed was

the seller, and the same sum on the buyer. For the convenience of dealers in linen, public offices are established in different districts, under the authority of trustees, whom his Majesty is impowered by the same act to appoint for *overseeing, directing, and improving, the linen manufacture in Scotland.* And these trustees have in some instances authorised manufacturers to stamp their own cloth according to the directions of the act.

Although the law requiring the stamping of linen, was founded on apparent views of public utility, it is doubtful whether any advantage has been derived from it sufficient to compensate the expence and loss of time, to which the manufacturer is subjected by it. The approbation of the stampmaster is never found to have any influence on the judgement of the merchant: Nor is it to be supposed, that a person, who has no connection with the trade, and whose emoluments depend on the quantity which he stamps, will be equally scrupulous of affixing the seal of his approbation, as if his interest depended on the quality. If stamping be found a necessary political regulation, the ends of utility appear to be best attained, by giving the power of stamping his own cloth to the manufacturer; whose credit and interest, operate as a joint security to the trustees; and to the public, that no improper goods are sent into the market.

† At that time the whole cloth manufactured in the district, including the parishes of Kirkaldy, Abbotshall, Dysart, Leslie, &c. was stamped here, and is included in the computation.

was their state about that time, and so unpromising had the prospect become; first, through the non importation agreement of America, and afterwards, through the commencement of hostilities with that country, that some of the manufacturers thought of turning their capital into a different channel.

One of them *, however, previously resolved on an attempt to introduce the manufactures of this place into the internal consumption of England. The attempt was made, and immediately succeeded; and the manufacture of checks and ticks having been of late resigned in many parts of that country, for finer and more profitable articles, and the difference in the price of labour too, enabling the Scots manufacturer to furnish them at a lower rate, the demand from England has increased; and the trade has in consequence been progressively advancing for 15 years, without suffering any other interruption, than that periodical stagnation, which is produced in times of prosperity by *overtrading*.

At present the manufactures of Kirkaldy employ about 810 looms †; of which about 250 are in the parish ‡, about 300 in

* The late Mr. James Fergus, of the house of John Fergus and Sons; to whose discernment and spirit, the manufacturers of this district owe their introduction to a market which of all others yields the quickest and surest returns,—the inland market of England.

† This number is ascertained from lists furnished by the manufacturers individually. The whole district employs about 2000 looms; the produce of which for the year ending 1st November 1793, when the returns from the stamp-office to the trustees are made up, may be estimated at L. 110,000.

‡ The whole looms in the parish, which are triple the number that they were 4 years ago, amount to 266. But of these from 10 to 16 are employed by inhabitants of the neighbouring parishes; two of whom have shops here for the purchase of goods, but are not ranked among the manufacturers of the parish.

in the parish of Abbotshall, about 100 in the parish of Dyfart, about 60 in the parish of Largo, and the rest scattered over the neighbouring parishes. The annual amount of a weaver's work (allowing for the variations of age, ability, and habits of application, among the whole weavers employed) is found to be at a medium from 10 to 12 pieces, measuring one with another, about 110 yards. On this computation, the annual produce of a loom runs from 1100 to 1320 yards, worth on the lowest estimate of yards, and at the average price of 1s. each *, L. 55: And the annual produce of the whole looms employed amounts, on the same estimate, nearly to 900,000 yards †, worth at the same average about L. 45,000. Reckoning 22 *spindles* as the average quantity of yarn to a piece, 178,200 *spindles* are annually manufactured into cloth. Of this quantity about a ninth part is cotton yarn; which is spun here, and in the neighbourhood, with the assistance of machinery; as mentioned formerly. The flax-yarn has hitherto been spun with the hand ‡. After the flax is heckled, the manufacturer sends it to undertakers in different parts of the country, who give it out to be spun, and receive a certain commission on the quantity of yarn returned by them. The expence of spinning, when commission and carriage are included, amounts at an average to 1s. 3d. the *spindle*. Besides

* The prices of checks run from 6d. to 1s. 6d. per yard; of ticks, from 7d. to 2s. 6d. The proportion of plain linen is very inconsiderable, perhaps not as 1 to 500 of the whole, and the price is low. As the cheaper fabrics prevail, a low average is taken.

† This is nearly as 1 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole linen made in the county of Fife, the amount of which for the year ending the 1st, November 1793, was 5,013,089 yards.

‡ A mill for spinning flax, on the Darlington model, is erecting in the neighbourhood by a manufacturer of this place; from which specimens of good work have already been produced.

sides the yarn spun on the manufacturers account, a considerable quantity is regularly bought in from the neighbourhood; and frequently from Montrose, Brechin, Cupar-Angus, &c. Of the whole linen yarn manufactured, about a seventh part is spun from flax produced in the country; and the rest from flax imported, chiefly from Riga, at the average price of L. 45, per ton. For some years a considerable quantity of yarn has been brought into this port from Bremen and Hamburgh. The quantity has in one year amounted to 441,400 lbs; which at 3 lbs. to the spindle, made 147,133 spindles. Of this, however, but a small proportion is commonly used in the parish; and no great proportion in the neighbourhood. The far greater part of it is sent to Perth, Dunfermling, Falkland, Auchtermuchty, and some other inland towns, in which coarse linen is manufactured.

Of the yarn used in making checks and ticks, about three-fourths are whitened, and the remaining fourth dyed. Most of the principal manufacturers whiten and dye for themselves; the rest employ public bleachers and dyers. The different operations of heckling, spinning, dyeing, bleaching, warping, winding, and weaving, may be computed to employ $5\frac{1}{2}$ hands to every loom; which makes the whole hands employed in carrying on the manufacture of the place; reckoning men, women, and children, 4455. Deducing the price of materials, (flax, cotton, soap, ashes, indigo, &c.) which, when those of the best quality are used, will be about one third of the value of the cloth, there remains L. 30,000 as the price of labour and the manufacturers profit. And this being divided among the whole number of productive hands, each is found to produce annually to the community about L. 7 Sterling.

The manufacturers of Kirkaldy, besides the cloth made by
A them

them, purchase annually a considerable quantity from the neighbouring district. The value of the cloth purchased by manufacturers or merchants in the course of last year, exceeded L. 30,000. Of the whole cloth, made or purchased, about three fourths are sold in England; from which a small proportion is exported to the West Indies and America. Of the remaining fourth, about one half of it is sold in Glasgow for exportation; the other half is consumed in the country*.

The

* The above was the state of the manufactures of Kirkcaldy, before the distresses which commerce and manufactures in general have suffered of late began to extend to them. Through the operation of particular circumstances, those distresses were prevented for a while from having any considerable effect on this district.—An engagement with a navy contractor, which enabled one of the principal manufacturers of the place, to purchase considerable more than the usual quantity of checks, contributed to keep the trade alive there for some months, after it had suffered in other places. The manufacturers too, calculating on the prosperity of the former year, had prepared a large stock of materials for the probable consumption of the succeeding year: And these materials, many of them were under the necessity of working up and selling, although with loss, to retire their bills as they fell due. This brought the usual quantity of cloth, and perhaps a greater quantity than usual to the market, during the first part of the year 1793. But the causes which produced this effect were temporary, and have now ceased to operate. The engagement with the contractor has been for some months at an end. The materials provided in the former year have been generally wrought up. And while the profits on the sale of the manufacture have not been sufficient to replace them, the want of ready money cannot now be supplied, at least with the same facility as formerly, by negotiating bills. Hence there is already an increasing stagnation. The number of looms employed *without* the place is fast diminishing. The prices of spinning and weaving have been twice reduced within the compass of a few months. On some fabrics, the price of weaving has fallen $\frac{1}{12}$, on others $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, and on a great proportion of the coarser goods, $\frac{1}{7}$ of the former prices. An industrious weaver can still earn from 8s. to 12s. in the week. But the actual earning of all the weavers employed,

Leather.—The next, both in standing and importance to the manufacture of cloth, is leather. This branch was established on a small scale in 1723 ; but it has since been much extended. At present, it employs 16 hands ; who manufacture annually from 3200 to 4000 hides of oxen, and cows, about the same number of calf-skins, and a small proportion

VOL. XVIII.

E

of

ployed, and for all kinds of work, do not now exceed the weekly average of five shillings.

Much has of late been said of the bad effects of high wages on the industry and prosperity of the people. It may be doubted, however, whether such reflections are founded on liberal or just views of the interest of the community. High wages, it is true, like high profits on trade, or high rents of land, increase the means of dissipation to those who are addicted to it, and abate the necessity of *their* application to industrious habits. But when the mind hath candidly distinguished between things themselves, and the abuse of them, it will unquestionably be found, that liberal wages are on the whole attended with important advantages. The liberal reward of labour, instead of abating industry, serves in general to increase it ; that quality, in the opinion of one of the most competent judges *, “ *improving like every other, in proportion to the encouragement which it receives.*” As high wages facilitate the support of a family, labourers when they receive them are encouraged to marry young ; and population increases. The industrious are enabled, not only to support their families comfortably, but in many instances to save a little, which they generally apply to the purchase of stock, and begin to work for themselves. In this way, a number of operative weavers have been of late coming forward into the rank of manufacturers, and, by widening the foundations of the trade, were contributing to increase the security of its continuance. By the fall of wages, a stop is put to this gradual advancement. And by the stagnation of trade, which is radically the cause of that fall, many of those who were advancing beyond the state of workmen, are thrown back into it ; with earnings that are hardly sufficient to maintain their families. In this situation, if they happen to have apprentices, their distress is often increased by them. The ordinary plan on which apprentices are taught here is rational and liberal. The time of apprenticeship is short, usually 3 years. No premium is required for instructing them : But the master receives in lieu of it

one

* Dr. Smith, Wealth of Nations, book i. chap. 8.

of seal-skins. The raw hides and skins are collected chiefly from the county of Fife. But as that range is not sufficient to supply the consumption, a considerable quantity is imported from the North of Scotland, from Ireland, and sometimes from Holland. For some years back, the price of raw hides has been about 7s. per ~~stone~~ of 22 lbs; but the present stagnation of trade has reduced it under 5s.

From 220 to 240 tons of oak bark are annually consumed in this manufacture. For many years the bark was brought wholly from England; excepting only a small proportion from

one half of the apprentice's earnings, while the other goes to his own support. In favourable times, an industrious apprentice, over and above the share which goes to his master, earns considerably more than is necessary for his support. And as the surplus is his own, his industry is constantly stimulated by partaking of its fruits. But when the wages of labour fall so low, that an apprentice cannot maintain himself with the half of his earnings,—which is the case at present with the young, the weakly, and the inexperienced, he must become a burden upon his master, or upon his friends, or abandon the trade.

If things continue long in their present state, the consequences will in this view, be extensively injurious to this community. The number of apprentices is very great; the demand for weavers, and the high wages of labour for two or three years past, having increased far beyond the ordinary proportion. Not only was every hand that could be spared from the neighbourhood determined to the loom; but plans were formed for procuring supplies from a distance. Advantageous proposals were circulated through different districts of the Highlands, in consequence of which about 50 young men, chiefly from Sutherland and Caithness came to this place as apprentices to the business of weaving, and many more were preparing to follow. Those who came had scarcely begun to feel the advantages of their situation, when a reduction of wages took place. Discouraged by this circumstance on the one hand, and tempted on the other, by large bounties to enter into the army, most of them have run off, and enlisted.—And this is a scheme likely to be frustrated, which promised to bring large supplies of productive labourers to this district; and, in the event, perhaps to carry manufactures and industry into districts of Scotland, where they are at present almost entirely unknown.

from the Highlands of Scotland. At that time the average price, including freight and carriage, was about L. 5 : 10 per ton. But British bark having within the last 3 or 4 years advanced almost to double the former price, (from L. 8 to L. 10) it has since been found necessary to import a great proportion of what is used here, from Germany and the Netherlands. The leather, which is of all the usual denominations, viz. bend, crop, shoe-hides, cordovan, saddler's leather, &c. is sold in the neighbouring towns and country, in the north of Scotland, in Perth, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and occasionally in London. The annual sales have for some years produced at an average from L. 7000 to L. 8000. The duties paid on this branch produce annually about L. 470. The wages of a tanner, which are nearly double to what they were 30 years ago, run in the week from 6s. to 10s; those of an industrious currier will average 15s.

Cotton-spinning.—The spinning of cotton, chiefly for woof, has been carried on here for 8 or 9 years; and till this year with considerable success. In 1792, 110 hands, reckoning men, women, and children, were employed in the town; besides those who were employed by manufacturers of this parish, in the neighbourhood.—At present, the number is reduced to 75. These prepare and spin about 1100 lbs. of cotton in the week, or about 57,000 lbs. in the year. This quantity is spun into 32,000 spindles of yarn; which at the average price of 4s. per spindle, yields L. 6400. The yarn is spun on the common *jenny*; of which instrument 29 are employed. The carding is performed on cylinder cards, moved by horses. The weekly wages paid to the whole hands employed amount to L. 12.

Before this year, a considerable quantity of the yarn spun here was sent to Perth, to be wrought into calicoes. At present,

present, almost the whole of it is consumed in the manufactures of the district. And to supply these, about as much more is spun by manufacturers of this place in a neighbouring parish *, where the convenience of water has induced them to erect machinery.

Ship-building.—Ship-building was introduced here in 1778. Previous to that time, a great proportion of the ships employed in the trade of Great Britain, was built in America; the contiguity of navigable rivers to immense forests making the construction of ships less expensive in that country than in any other. But since the separation of America, and especially since the register act of 1785, excluded all ships not British-built from the trade of this country, ship-building has generally increased in it. 38 Vessels carrying about 3000 tons, carpenters measure (about 4500 dead weight) have been built here in 15 years; most of them for the ports of the Frith; but some of them also for Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, &c. One of the largest of them for the capital of Zealand. The ordinary contract-price for building with oak plank, is from L. 4:5. to L. 6 per ton of the burden, and the hull is usually from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the price of the ship when clear to sail. The ship timber used here is partly brought from England, and partly imported from Hamburgh. The number of carpenters employed varies from 10 to 30. The average of their daily wages is about 1s. 8d.

Manufacture of Stockings.—The manufacturing of stockings has been carried on here since the 1773. 11 Looms are at present employed in it; 7 in what is called *customer-work*, i. e. in working materials which families or individuals prepare for their own consumption, and 4 in manufacturing for sale.

* Kinghorn.

sale. Calculating on the average of all sizes and qualities of stockings, every loom employed for sale produces annually about 520 pairs, worth from 2s. to 4s. each, or about L. 70 the whole produce. The average of the earnings of an industrious stocking-maker is about 8s. in the week.

Sea Salt.—The making of sea-salt was once a manufacture here, and a long established one. In the town's charter of confirmation (1644), the salt pans are mentioned as part of the description of the burgh. But little or no salt has been made since coal ceased to be wrought in the parish *.

Bank.—The general prosperity of this place has been much promoted by the establishment of a branch of the bank of Scotland in 1783. As most of the business of the neighbouring district is transacted through the medium of this branch, its annual operations in the way of cash accounts, discounting bills, and circulating the paper of the company, are very considerable. And it is worth while to remark, that notwithstanding the increased facility of obtaining credit which has been produced by it, yet no failure of any consequence has happened here, nor has the bank, or their agent, who guarantees to them all the bills which he discounts, suffered any loss, since the office was established.

About two years ago, the banking company of Dundee attempted to share this profitable trade with the bank of Scotland.

* Since the above was written, the making of salt has again begun, and is likely to be carried on with success; a late advance on the price of salt being more than sufficient to balance the extra expence of bringing coals from a distance.

land. But owing to the circumstances of the times, the attempt has not succeeded.

Advantage.——While different circumstances conspire to render this town an advantageous situation for commerce and manufactures, there are obvious disadvantages under which it labours. 1. The harbour is narrow, incommodious, and so much exposed to an heavy sea from the east, as to suffer frequent injury. This, it is possible in some degree to remedy; but at an expence to which the funds of the town are at present inadequate. 2. The parish affords no water for the necessary operation of bleaching, or for driving the machinery by which the spinning both of cotton and flax is now beginning to be performed. 3. The vicinity of the capital contributes to increase the prices of labour and provisions, and perhaps too, to produce some effect on the general habits of living: Add to all this, 4. The unfriendly influence of corporation and burgh privileges. The corporation spirit, limiting to a few advantages to which all have a natural claim, and making the *freedom of the trade*, as it is called, paramount both to skill and industry, cannot in the nature of the thing, but operate unfavourably on the prosperity of the community. It is probably owing to the operation of this spirit, that although free burgage tenure be every way superior to that of burghs of regality, and barony, yet the adjacent towns of Linktown and Pathhead, which are of the last kind, have for 30 years back increased in more than a double proportion to the royal burgh of Kirkaldy. The *politics* of burghs too, generally affect the public industry and the public morals: Or if they should not, at any rate they tend to abate the public happiness and prosperity. The collision of political opinions and political interests, dividing the inhabitants

habitants into *parties* or *sets*, not only diminishes the freedom of intercourse and familiar society, but prevents the application of the public strength *entire*, to the prosecution of the public good.

Although this place has suffered in common with others from that unhappy cause, it is but justice to say, that there is perhaps none of the burghs of Scotland, of which the constitution is more liberal, or of which the government is less *appropriated*.

Constitution of the Burgh.—At the time that the oldest existing records of the burgh commence (A. D. 1586,) the form of its government was popular, and extremely simple. The whole administration was vested in two bailies, annually elected *by the inhabitants, nybors and freemen at large*, who, as the minute of election bears, *gave them commission, and promised them subjection and assistance*. The bailies, after taking an oath of fidelity, named what was called the *head court* or *annual assise*. This court immediately sat, and *ordained acts and statutes for the public weil*; which were instantly recorded as the bailies guide for their year of office. In 1595 a council was added to assist the bailies. This council, two or three years after, assumed the power of naming a *leet*, from which the inhabitants were to choose the magistrates; and after the preparation of a year or two more, took the election wholly into its own hands, and excluded the community. In the charter of confirmation, however, the right of electing their magistrates was restored to the community in common with the council. And when the burgh was in 1652 incorporated with the commonwealth of England, that right was expressly recognised and continued to them: And “the
“ neighbours and inhabitants of the town were authorised and
“ appointed, according to their former rites and customs, from
“ time

“time to time, to nominate and choose their magistrates and other officers for the government of the burgh *.” The Restoration produced a new constitution; the formation of which was a source of violent dissensions among the inhabitants. These were, however, at length composed by the arbitration of the Earl of Rothes, then President of the Privy Council; who by his decret-arbitral pronounced in 1662, established the *set or constitution* which still subsists; and which has continued since that time without interruption, save only during the reign of James II. who by his organ, the Privy Council, expressly nominated and appointed to the magistracy, &c. such persons as he judged most *loyal and ready to promote his service* †. By this constitution the government of the burgh is vested in a council annually chosen from three classes of inhabitants, mariners, merchants, and craftsmen. The council consists of 21 members; of whom 10 must be mariners, 8 merchants, and 3 craftsmen. The old council elect their successors; to whom, however, they do not wholly resign their places, till they have voted along with them and with the deacons ‡ of the incorporated trades in the election of the new magistrates. These are taken from the new council; and consist of a provost, 2 baillies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer. The incorporated trades are 7 in number; and rank in the following order; smiths, wrights and masons, weavers, shoemakers, taylor, bakers, and fleshers. Here, as in other

* Commission from the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England, to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy, to choose their own magistrates, *penes* Town Council.

† Act of the Privy Council in 1687, appointing the Earl of Balcarras, and others, magistrates of Kirkaldy, *penes* Town Council.

‡ The Deacons have a vote in the Council in all cases, excepting the formation of the new Council,

other burghs, the privilege of exercising their several trades is enjoyed exclusively by the members of the incorporation; excepting in the case of weavers and fleshers. The exclusive privileges of the former were reduced by an act of the legislature in 1751; by which weavers in flax and hemp are permitted to settle and exercise their trades any where in Scotland, free of all corporation dues. And the injurious consequences of the corporation privilege are guarded against, in the case of the latter, by an act of the first Parliament of Queen Anne, (sess. 1. ch. 7.) ; which declares it to be lawful to all persons whatsoever, to sell and break all sorts of fleshes on every lawful day of the week, and that in all towns and burghs of this kingdom, free of any imposition whatsoever, the petty custom of burghs excepted.

Parliamentary Representation.—Since the Union of the two kingdoms, this burgh joins with the neighbouring burghs of Dysart, Kinghorn, and Burntisland, in sending a representative to the British Parliament. Delegates, nominated by the councils of the several burghs, elect the representative. The return of the representative is made by the burghs in rotation; and in case of an equality, the delegate of the returning burgh has a double voice. The greatest number of those who vote for the delegate is 28; and the choice is determined by a majority. The delegate, when chosen, is not merely the legal organ by which the sense of his constituents is expressed. He acts in the matter of election, without limitation or controul; and his principles are their only security for his conveying their sentiments.

Revenue.—The revenue of this burgh is but inconsiderable. It arises partly from feu-duties on land. By the original

nal charter of erection *, 52 acres of adjacent land, which, together with the burgh, had been conveyed to the abbey of Dunfermling in 1450, were disjoined from the regality of the abbey, and annexed to the burgh, to be held of the crown. Some time after, the right of pasturage in the moor, which had also been conveyed to the burgh in 1450, was by a new conveyance from the abbey, converted into property †. The moor and burgh acres extended to full three fourths of the present parish. The burgh acres were early alienated. The moor continued long in the possession of the community. In 1648, at which time the parts of it that lay nearest the town were begun to be converted into arable land, it was let at L. 72 : 6 : 8 ‡. In 1688, the moor and common loan were let at L. 68 : 10 §. Since that time the whole property of the town has been feued out, and it now yields L. 40 : 12, to

* This charter, which is referred to in the Charter of Confirmation, but without specifying its date, is not now to be found. It is probable that the papers which related to the erection of the burgh, were either destroyed in 1560, when the French, whom the Queen Regent brought into Scotland to assist in suppressing the Protestants, plundered and burnt Kirkaldy in their destructive progress along the coast of Fife, or lost in 1651 at the taking of Dundee, to which place they had, on Cromwell's invasion, been removed for security, with other valuable effects, as mentioned in page 21st. One or other of these is stated in a memorial from the town in 1678; as the reason why they could not be produced in a process before the Court of Session, in which an exhibiton of them had been ordered. The facts stated above are taken from different papers in possession of the burgh.

† This conveyance is mentioned in an inventory of writs belonging to the burgh in 1722.

‡ Renunciation and discharge Henry Boswell to the town.

§ Report of the Commission of Visitation, appointed by the Convention of Burghs.

to the community *. In this sum all public burdens are included; the community having become bound, when their lands were feued, to relieve the feuars of all public burdens in all time coming; thus leaving to posterity one incontrovertible proof, at least, that they once had property.

The rest of the revenue is drawn from a port duty on goods landed at the harbour, from the petty customs on goods interchanged with the neighbouring country, and from an impost of 2 pennies Scots on the pint of ale brewed in the town for sale, or sold into it from the neighbourhood. This last is a parliamentary grant, which was first given for a limited period, in 1707, with the burden of L. 10 annually, to the professor of mathematics in the King's College of Aberdeen; and which has, since that time, been again and again renewed, without any burden. The whole revenue produced last year L. 317 †, but it does not average above L. 260. The ordinary purposes to which the revenue is applied, are: 1. The discharge of public burdens, amounting annually to about L. 60. 2. The payment of interest on a debt of L. 2430 ‡. 3. The reparation of the harbour. 4. The payment of clerks, officers, and all the incidental expences incurred in conducting the business of the community.

The annual cess paid to government from this burgh is L. 80 : 9 : 8; to which it was reduced on a representation

F 2

to

* Above 400 acres of the moor were feued to the late Mr. Oswald of Dunikeer, at the yearly feu-duty of L. 45 : 10. But, in consequence of a reserve to the feuar, to buy up the feu-duty at least to a certain extent, at 20 years purchase, it has been lately reduced to L. 20 : 18 : 4; so that the whole feu-duties now payable to the town, are as above stated.

† Feu duties L. 40 : 12; petty custom L. 28 : 10; shore-dues L. 135; impost L. 105; meal market, weigh-house, &c. L. 8. Total L. 317 : 2.

‡ At the Revolution, the debt of the town was 60,000 merks, or L. 3333 6s. 8d. Sterling, as ascertained by the Commission of Visitation.

to the Convention of royal burghs in 1770, after having stood at L. 94 : 15 : 9, since the Union. Part of the cels is levied from the traders, according to the trade of each, ascertained by a jury of 5 mariners, 5 merchants and 5 craftsmen; 90 are nominated by the council, but who cannot at the time be members of the council. Part of it is levied from the burgh acres. But three fourths of it are raised by a poundage on house rents. These have been progressively advancing for 30 years. In 1763, they were estimated at L. 729; in 1783 at L. 1050; at 1793 at L. 1654. As houses in the possession of proprietors are always rated below the real value, the whole house rents may be estimated at L. 2000; which is about the proportion of L. 3 of rent for each family.

The window tax amounts nearly to as much as the cels. The whole duties paid to the tax-office for the year ending 5th April 1793, amounted to L. 171 *. The whole duties paid to the excise-office †, for the year ending 6th July 1793, amounted to L. 2250 : 15 : 6. The post-office produced in 1793; L. 528; the distribution of stamps L. 433. When to these branches the customs are added, the whole revenue drawn

* Window duty, old and new, L. 76 : 19 : 10; inhabited houses L. 6 : 12 : 3; wheel-carriages L. 48 : 8; male servants L. 23 : 18 : 6; horses L. 15 : 2 : 6. Total L. 171 : 1 : 1.

† This is properly the residence of the collector of excise for the county of Fife. It is also the residence of a supervisor, and of — officers of excise. The detail of the excise duties stated above, is as follows: Ale, L. 259 : 13; candle, L. 59 : 2; leather, L. 471 : 14 : 10½; malt, L. 174 : 11; wine and spirits imported, exclusive of the custom-house duty, L. 1130 : 15 : 8; wine licences, L. 12; foreign spirit do. L. 71 : 8; plain aquavitæ do. L. 46; tea do. L. 9 : 7; tobacco do. L. 5 : 5; licences for brewers, candlemakers, tanners, and curriers, L. 11 : 10. Total, L. 2250 : 15 : 6½.

drawn from this parish for one year will amount to L. 4814 : 18 : 3; which is nearly in the proportion of L. 1 : 16, for every person, man, woman, and child in the parish*.

Ecclesiastical State.—The ecclesiastical establishment of this parish has, through the low state of the burgh funds, suffered a temporary reduction. In 1614, the date of the oldest ecclesiastical record, the church appears to have been collegiate; the duty of it having been conducted by two ministers, exercising equal powers, and having nearly an equal provision †. At that time the stipend of the second minister was 800 merks, paid the one half by the heritors, the other by the town council ‡; while that of the first minister in 1630, was no more than 480 merks, a chalder of bear, a chalder of oats, and 4 bolls of wheat §. Both charges continued to be regularly supplied, and both ministers to sit as constituent members of all the ecclesiastical judicatures ||, till 1759; when a vacancy happening in the second charge, the minister of the first undertook to do the duty of the whole parish, on condition of receiving, together with his own stipend, the half of that

* Of the articles which pay duty in this parish, a great proportion is consumed out of it. This, however, may be considered as balanced by other articles consumed in the parish, which pay duty, but of which the duty is either not paid in the parish, or not included in the above statement. Articles of the first kind, are tea, coffee, sugar, rum, porter, vinegar, home-made spirits, tobacco, glass, paper, silk, printed cloth, sail-cloth and cordage, soap, starch, pins, newspapers and almanacks, cards, and dice, &c. Articles of the last kind, are, salt, hats, drugs, perfumery, &c.

† Session records, *passim*.

‡ The amount of the stipend and the mode of payment, is written on a leaf at the beginning of the oldest volume of the Session records.

§ This is recorded in a volume of the Presbytery records of the above date.

|| Records of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly,

that which had been enjoyed by his colleague. This arrangement, the ostensible reason of which was the poverty of the burgh, (which after the disjunction of Abbotshall, paid the whole of the second minister's stipend); the presbytery were prevailed on to allow for a time. And although the town-council have, ever since the death of the incumbent with whom the arrangement was made, appropriated that stipend to their own use, the charge to this day continues vacant.

Stipend.—The crown presents to the first charge; the town council were in use of supplying the second. The stipend of the second charge in 1759, was 1000 merks Scots. The present stipend of the first charge is $120\frac{1}{4}$ bolls of bear, $79\frac{1}{4}$ bolls of oats, and 100 merks of vicarage. The last decret of augmentation (which, was passed in 1737) gives also the tiend of fish *according to use and wont*. But as almost the whole of the fish sold here, is carried over land, and the use and wont is understood to confine the minister's right to fish carried into the parish by water, no advantage is at present derived to him from this part of his decret. The first minister has a manse; a glebe of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and about the same quantity of land, *independent of the glebe*, enjoyed since 1678 by a private mortification. By a recent judgement of the presbytery, the minister is found intitled to have this glebe enlarged to the legal standard, and to have ground assigned to him for pasture. This judgement has, however, been suspended, and is now under the review of the Court of Session.

Church.—The church is old, how old is not exactly known. It is said to have been dedicated to St. Brisse; who

in the days of superstition appears to have been the tutelar faint of the place *, and who has entailed his name on a small division of the burgh lands, which is called in the register of sasines St. Brisse or *St. Bryce's Deal*. The church is but in indifferent repair; nor could it well be otherwise, when neither the heritors nor town-council have for more than 180 years taken any charge of it. What repairs it has received during that time have been paid for by the kirk-session. On the recommendation of the heritors and council, the collections made at the church doors before the afternoon service were for a while employed for this purpose. But the presbytery having inhibited that application of the collections, the church has for more than a century been kept in repair out of a part of the feat-rents, which are under the management of the kirk-session.

Seats.—Originally the whole area of the church was in their hands: And their records shew that all the incorporations, and such of the heritors as have seats, (more than the half of them have none) derived their rights from the kirk-session. They still retain about a fourth part of the church; from which they draw annually from L. 18 to L. 20. The necessary repairs are defrayed from this fund, the remainder of which goes to the maintenance of the poor in common with the collections. Some of the heritors of Abbotshall retain their seats in the church of Kirkaldy; and by a decret of the Court of Session in 1685, are found liable in

* The arms of the burgh appear to have been framed in compliment to this faint. These are a Gate of a Church, with the Saint standing in it, having a Mitre on his head, something resembling a Cross in his hand, a Moon and Star, as emblems of night round him; and the motto under, *Vigilando munio.*

in their proportion of the repairs. The tiends of Abbotshall are, by the same decret, liable for the repairs of the quire of Kirkaldy.

Dissenters.—There is no place for public worship in the parish, but the parish church; if a mason-lodge be excepted, which is employed for that purpose by an handful of independents. Most of the other dissenters attend at different places in the neighbouring parishes. On the first of January 1790, the dissenters, taking the whole number of souls, were 595; which was to the establishment nearly in the proportion of 1 to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and of 1 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ of the whole population. These were divided among the different denominations of dissenters in the following proportions, viz. Burghers 304, antiburghers 206, presbytery of relief 51, independents 11, episcopals 10, reformed presbytery 9, Bereans 2, baptist 1, Roman catholic 1.

The dissenters of this place, and particularly those of them who retain the standards of the church, are distinguished for moderation and liberality. Of that forbidding asperity, which for some time after their first separation characterized the conduct of seceders towards the members of the church, there is scarcely a trace remaining. Good men of the secession and of the establishment, dwell together as brethren in the exercise of mutual charity and of mutual esteem. And in one of their congregations, the minister of which resides in Kirkaldy and takes his official designation from it, the established congregation of the place, has not unfrequently by name, a friendly interest in the public prayers.

School.—The public school is under the care of two masters; who teach in separate rooms, and without any dependence one on the other. The first master teaches Latin,
French,

French, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, &c.; the second, English and Writing. The first has a yearly salary of L. 20; which, with the school-fees, and the emoluments of the office of session-clerk which he holds at present, makes his living about L. 60. The second has a salary of L. 10^{*}; which, with the emolument of his school and private teaching, makes his living about L. 40. The stated salaries of both are paid by the town-council. There are several private schools in the place. In all the schools there are about 250 children in the ordinary course of attendance.

The Poor.—The poor of this parish are chiefly supplied from the collections at the church doors. These, notwithstanding the increase of money, which the prosperity of the country has of late produced, are not so great as they were an hundred years ago †. This may be partly a consequence of the Secession, which has diminished the numbers of the established congregation. But it may be partly attributed also, to a secession of a different kind, the secession of too many of those, who are called “the better sort,” from the public ordinances of religion.—The Seceders of this class are unhappily so numerous in most parts of the country, that a plain man, who should judge from the general conduct, might be apt to conclude, that the possession of a little land, a commission in the army or navy, or any distinction professional or official, which allows a man to add Esquire to his name, were considered as a charter, entitling the possessor to “hold blanch” of Heaven, on paying an occasional duty;

VOL. XVIII.

G

and

* Since the above was written, the salary of the second master has been augmented to L. 16.

† Vide pages 19, and 24.

and that, perhaps, only when demanded by royal proclamation. This is "a fore evil," of which the country at large is at present eating the bitter fruits; no one cause perhaps having contributed more, if not to excite, at least to foment that spirit of "insubordination," which has of late occasioned such general alarm. Not only does the irreligion of the higher ranks abate their personal respectability and influence; but, as the common people, by a process of mind of which the meanest are capable, transfer the character of their superiors whom they know, to those whom they know not, it has the effect of inducing an unfavourable opinion of the holders of place and power in general. And, what is still more injurious to the interests of society, it operates in the way of example, gradually to weaken and destroy the restraints of religion on the public mind, and so to leave it open, and without a guard to the impressions of the ill-disposed and designing.

Were men of rank and fortune to see their duty, or even their interest, in the proper light, and to cultivate and maintain the religious character; besides the advantage which they would derive to themselves, in respect of improvement and comfort, they would secure at once, a personal influence, and an accession of strength to the state, which, so long as they set up independant of religion, all their exertions will be insufficient to gain.

Through the irregular attendance of many of the upper ranks, the public supplies for the poor are here drawn chiefly from that class of inhabitants on which they ought to fall lightest, those whose personal labour is generally no more than sufficient for the comfortable maintenance of their own families. It is not surprising, therefore, that notwithstanding the populousness of the parish, the ordinary collections for 12 years preceding 1791, produced no more than

than L. 63 : 10. Since that time, by dispensing the sacrament twice in the year, and by making an extraordinary collection at the new year, they have averaged L. 85. When to this is added, the surplus of seat rents *, the donations which are customary among the more opulent on occasion of marriages and the death of friends, and the interest of an accumulated sum of L. 290, the whole funds, under the management of the kirk-session, have for 2 or 3 years amounted to about L. 110; or about L. 100 clear, after deducing (the only expence incurred in the management), small salaries to a treasurer and distributor, a clerk, and an officer. Out of this sum above 40 persons are regularly supplied; 8 or 9 of the most destitute of whom have the additional benefit of lodging, in a house purchased for the poor, about 50 years ago. Besides the regular pensioners, above 40 more are supplied occasionally †. That the whole must be inadequately supplied, any one may see who compares their number with the funds to be divided among them. Although no man, who has the welfare of his country at heart, would wish to see poor's rates established here on the same footing on which they are in England, yet the friend of humanity must regret, that some equitable plan is not generally adopted for securing more effectually to the indigent, the necessary aid of their more fortunate brethren. Perhaps the time is not very remote, when something of this kind must be done. When

G 2

so

* See page 47.

† Since the above was written, the poor have become so numerous, and their necessities so urgent, that besides extraordinary and liberal contributions made by the inhabitants, the kirk session have been obliged to encroach on their capital. Upwards of 170 persons, a considerable proportion of them with families, have been supplied at one public distribution.

so many of those on whom the law rests the burden of the poor, bestow neither time, nor thought, nor money, to provide for them, it is not improbable that kirk sessions, whose attention to the poor is merely “a labour of love”; to which they are no otherwise bound, than by the common obligations of humanity, will find themselves constrained to do in general, what some of them already threaten, give up collecting at the church doors, and leave it to the civil magistrate to make provision for the poor, by putting the laws for their support in execution.

It is fortunate for the poor of this parish that they do not all depend upon the public funds. The society of seamen, the company of merchants, the incorporated trades, the maltmen, the carters, have all of them separate boxes for assisting the poor of their respective societies. The seamen, in particular, have funds, arising partly from rents and feu-duties, and partly from a poundage on the wages of sailors, which enable them to pay annually to indigent members of their society, or to their widows and families, about L. 40, besides furnishing ten of them with a house to lodge in.

Charitable Associations.—Three different associations have of late been formed here, for the purpose of assisting the members, when their ordinary labour is suspended by distress. These are all constituted on the same general plan. Each member, besides a small sum paid on his admission, contributes at the rate of one penny in the week, and receives weekly, when confined, 3 shillings. To those, whose daily subsistence depends on their personal industry, this is often a seasonable supply; and the meanest labourer can without difficulty afford the contribution which entitles him to receive it.

Means of Subsistence, and Wages.—The inhabitants of this parish, upon the whole, enjoy the means of subsistence in an equal degree with those of the same level in any other part of the country. The late successful exertions of the trader and manufacturer, have, by increasing the demand for all kinds of labour, and of course increasing their price, contributed to improve the circumstances of the community in general. And, although the cause of this improvement does not at present operate with the same force, yet weaving, the price of which was the first increased, is perhaps the only species of labour of which the wages have yet suffered any considerable diminution. Wrights and masons still earn from 9s. to 10s. 6d. in the week; smiths from 7s. to 10s.; shoemakers from 5s. to 10s.; taylor from 6s. to 8s.; hacklers from 9s. to 15s.; gardeners from 8s. to 12s.; day-labourers from 6s. to 7s. in all seasons; and during the time of harvest, and of weeding and hoeing, which, since drilled crops have become so frequent, continue through a great part of the summer, their earnings are still higher. Male farm servants, and female servants, whether for house or farm, are commonly hired by the half-year; and receive of wages, the former from L. 3; 10s. to L. 4. the latter from 25s. to 40s. exclusive of their subsistence.

Provisions.—While such is the rate of wages, and labourers in general are fully employed, provisions are obtained easily, and upon the whole at a moderate price. Oat meal, now less used than formerly, but still a chief article of food among the working classes, sells, on an average of seven years, at 1s. the peck; flour at 1s. 4d.; pease and barley meal at 8d. When oat meal is cheap, the consumption of it is to that of flour, nearly in the proportion of two thirds, when dear, of one half. Two thirds of the oat meal consumed here is brought

brought from a distance, chiefly from Mid-Lothian. The flour is chiefly furnished by the county of Fife, though there is occasionally a supply from England.

The flesh market is well supplied in all seasons, and the consumption of butcher-meat very considerable, probably three times what it was twenty years ago. The average of the number, weight, and value of the different kinds of cattle which have been annually killed, and sold here for some years, is as follows.

Kinds.	Number.	Weight of each in tron stones.	Total weight of each kind.	Medium price, per lib. of 22 oz.	Total value.
Beeves	600	24	14.000	$3\frac{3}{4}$	L.3.500
Calves	550	3	1.650	$4\frac{1}{2}$	495
Sheep	1500	2	3.000	$4\frac{1}{2}$	900
Lambs	900	$1\frac{1}{4}$	1.125	$4\frac{1}{2}$	337
Hogs	60	8	480	$4\frac{1}{2}$	144
	3610		20.255 stones or 445.610 lb. Engl.		L.5.376

Of this quantity, a full third goes into the consumption of the neighbouring parishes: About 700 stones are bought for sea-stores, by the shipmasters of the place; whose principal supplies of salt-beef are from Ireland: The remainder (about 12,530 stones *tron*; or 275,660 lib. English), is consumed in the parish; and is nearly in the proportion of 4 stones, 11 lib. or 103 lib. English, to every man, woman, and child in it.

The supply of fish is lessened, and the price raised, by the nearness of the metropolis. There are no fishers that belong to this parish: About the beginning of summer, a family or two usually come from Buck-haven, the principal fishing station on the south coast of Fife, and reside here for a few months, for the convenience of supplying the inhabitants. But the chief supply is carried from Buck-haven and Wemyss,
over

over land, on the backs, sometimes of horses, but more commonly of women. In this way, most kinds of fish that are caught in the Frith, are pretty regularly brought to Kirkaldy in their seasons, haddocks excepted; which have for several years, been extremely rare, and have been sold at enormous prices. A shilling has been paid for a single haddock, that 15 years ago would have sold for a halfpenny.

The vicinity of Edinburgh has an effect also on the prices of eggs, poultry, and butter. Eggs sell from 4d. to 7d. the dozen, hens from 1s. to 1s 6d. each, chickens from 8d. to 1s 4d. the pair, butter from 8d. to 11d. the pound, green cheese made of skimmed milk, from 2d. to 3d. the pound*. All these articles, (together with the yarn that is spun in the neighbourhood with the hand), are regularly exposed to sale, in the weekly market, which holds here on Saturday, and has this peculiarity, that it begins between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, and is generally over by 6 o'clock. This custom was probably introduced at first, to evade the law which prohibits Saturday and Monday markets†. And the convenience of attending the market in the morning, and returning home in time for the ordinary labour of the day, has induced the country people to continue the custom, notwithstanding that frequent attempts have been made to alter it. By the Charter of Charles, the Burgh had the privilege of holding two annual fairs; one on the third Wednesday of July, another on the last Wednesday of September. For a long time, these were regularly kept; but as the constant trade of the place advanced, the fairs gradually diminished; and for many years, there has not been a vestige of them.

The

* Cheese and butter, as well as butcher meat, are here sold by the troy or heavy pound of 22 ounces.

† Charles II. Par. i. sess. 3, cap. 19.

Manners and Character.—The inhabitants of this parish seem in general to enjoy the advantages of their situation, and live comfortably. Among the upper classes, the stile of living is genteel, but not luxurious or expensive. Allowing for the diversity of circumstances, all classes dress well, and are generally civil in their manners, and decent in their external deportment. Although a considerable proportion of them have been bred to the sea, there is nothing of the roughness which common opinion has attached to that profession. The class of seamen is not less respectable in character than in numbers. The great body of the people are industrious and sober: but 31 houses and 19 shops licensed to retail spirits,—a number that is in the proportion of 1 to 13 of all the families in the place,—furnish room to suspect, that from this part of the public character there must be exceptions. Strong drink appears to have been long a considerable article in the consumption of Kirkaldy. A temporary impost on wines and foreign spirits *vented* within the burgh, having, by a charter of Charles II. been granted to the magistrates and council for the payment of their public debts, the *deficiencies* of that impost for *one* year ending November 1671, are stated in a process for recovering them, brought against the vintners, to have been 60 pieces, (hogsheads) French wine, 6 butts Sack, 60 pints Rhenish, 80 pints Tent, and 80 pints * brandy. Far down in the present century, it was the practice, even among citizens of some character, to take a regular *whet* in the forenoon, and most commonly to spend the evening in the public house. For a considerable time this practice has been given up; and the habit of drinking spirits to excess is confined to a few, and these generally of the very lowest

* Scotch pints, two of which are about $\frac{1}{10}$ less than the English wine gallon.

lowest order. It is remarkable, however, that no less than 8 persons, and some of them ranking above the lowest order, have in little more than 4 years visibly fallen victims to this destructive habit. With some exceptions among the two extremes, the higher ranks, and the very lowest and most worthless, the inhabitants are regular in attending the ordinances of religion, and generally observant of its moral duties. Although petty thefts, and other breaches of law that call for correction, may be supposed to happen at times in so large a community, yet the public character has been rarely stained by the commission of great crimes. One or two instances of child-murder have occurred within the remembrance of the present generation. But no inhabitant of Kirkaldy has suffered the punishment of death since the commencement of the last century; a man and his wife excepted, who were burnt here in 1633, for the supposed crime of witchcraft*.

Eminent Men.—In respect of intellectual abilities, the inhabitants of Kirkaldy are not beneath the ordinary level; and the parish has at different times produced men that rose far beyond it. The first, and not the least distinguished, whose name has reached us, is MICHAEL SCOT, the Friar Bacon of Scotland;

* At that time the belief of witchcraft prevailed, and trials and executions on account of it were frequent in all the kingdoms of Europe. It was in 1634 that the famous Urban Grandier was, at the instigation of Cardinal Richelieu, whom he had satirised, tried and condemned to the stake, for exercising the black art on some nuns of Loudun, who were supposed to be possessed. And it was much about the same time, that the wife of the Marechal D'Ancre was
 Gil for a witch, at the Place de Greve at Paris.
 trest.

Scotland *; who, in the 13th century, contributed, by his attainments in science, to break the gloom of that benighted age. After pursuing with unusual success the study of languages, belles lettres, and mathematics, at home, Mr Scot travelled into France, where he resided several years. From France he removed into Germany, and lived for a while at the court of the Emperor Frederick II. a prince the most eminent of his time, both for his own learning, and for the encouragement which he gave to learned men. But that prince being then engaged in war, Mr Scot withdrew from the court, to prosecute with more advantage in retirement his favourite studies of medicine and chemistry. After some years he returned through England, (where he was well received by Edward I.) into his own country, and there died in 1291.

The extraordinary discoveries of this man, particularly in chemistry, made him pass in that ignorant and superstitious age, for a magician; and a thousand popular stories are in different parts of Scotland told to this day, of his commerce with evil spirits, and of the wonders which he achieved through their agency. He is also said to have been a prophet, and among other events to have foretold the union of Scotland and England †. He left behind him. 1. A translation of Avicenna's book on animals from the Arabic into Latin: 2. A Commentary on the works of Aristotle: 3. A Treatise on the Secrets of Nature, on the principles of the Aristotelian Philosophy. In this book he treats at large of a science, to which a modern author ‡ has applied much ingenuity,

* He was born at his family seat of Balweary, now the property of Mr. Ferguson of Raith, and since 1650 part of the parish of Abbotshall.

† Belfour's History of Scotland.

‡ Lavater.

nuity, Physiognomy: 4. A book on Alchymy, entitled, the Nature of the Sun and Moon: 5. A book entitled *Mensa Philosophica*.

Sir George M'Kenzie calls him one of the greatest Philosophers, Mathematicians, Physicians, and Linguists, of the times in which he lived; and says, that had he not been so much addicted to astrology, alchymy, physiognomy, and chiromancy, he would have deserved well of the republic of letters.

Towards the middle of the 17th century, Messrs George and Patrick Gillespie, natives of this place, and Mr. Robert Douglas, who, with Patrick Gillespie, was some time minister of Kirkaldy, distinguished themselves by their writings and their conduct, in the ecclesiastical history of those difficult times. All the three were zealously attached to the cause of Presbytery, which was then considered in Scotland as intimately connected with the cause of general liberty. Two of them, Mr George Gillespie, and Mr Douglas, having been previously translated to Edinburgh, were in 1643 nominated by the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, Commissioners to the Assembly of Divines at Westminster; in the proceedings of which, Mr Gillespie in particular conducted himself with much ability and prudence. He was one of the first characters at that time in the church. He wrote *Miscellanies*, &c. He died in 1649, at the age of 36. A marble monument, which was inscribed to his memory, (it is believed at the public expence), and which, as an appended inscription bears, was pulled down through the "malign influence of Archbishop Sharp," but afterwards repaired by the relations of Mr Gillespie, is still standing in this church yard.

After the death of Charles I. Mr Douglas and Mr Patrick Gillespie took different sides. The former espoused the interests of Charles II. at whose coronation at Scone in 1651
he

he preached, and conducted the religious part of that ceremony *. The latter favoured the views of the commonwealth of England, by whose commissioners he was made Principal of the University of Glasgow; but was ejected at the Restoration. The counsels and pens of both were employed to support the sides to which they severally attached themselves.

During the present century this parish has produced different persons, who have attracted public notice. Dr. John Drysdale, late one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and author of two volumes of posthumous sermons, was a native of it, and received the rudiments of his education at what his learned biographer calls, The obscure school of Kirkaldy. He was born in 1718, and died in 1788.

Kirkaldy was the birth-place of that distinguished statesman, Mr Oswald of Dunnikeer. Mr Oswald was originally bred to the bar.—But having in 1741 been chosen to serve in parliament for the district of burghs, of which this is one, he bent the whole force of his mind to his parliamentary duty; in the prosecution of which, his abilities, integrity, and laborious attention to the interests, particularly the commercial interests, of his country, raised him from the level of a citizen of Kirkaldy, to the first offices and honours of the state. He was successively a commissioner of trade and plantations, a lord of the treasury, and vice-treasurer of Ireland. He was also a privy counsellor. After representing this district of burghs in three parliaments, and the county of Fife in a fourth, he, in 1768, retired from public business, on account of ill-health induced by too intense an application to it. He died in 1769 at the age of 54.

Kirkaldy has also the signal honour to have given birth to that

* His sermon on that occasion was published, and is still extant.

that eminent benefactor to society, Dr Adam Smith, the enlightened author of the "Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations," and to have been the place of his residence during most of the time that he was employed in writing that incomparable book. Dr Smith was born in 1723. He published his Inquiry in 1776; and before his death, which happened in 1789, he had the singular good fortune to see it translated into the languages, and the principles of political economy contained in it, adopted into the systems, of almost all the commercial nations of Europe. He wrote also "The Theory of Moral Sentiments."—Those who would know more of this great man, may consult a memoir of his life and character published in the second volume of "The Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh."

In the more retired, though not the least useful or respectable sphere of private citizens, Kirkaldy could reckon different persons, who would have been distinguished as citizens of the first class in any community.

NUMBER

E R R A T A.

- Page 7. l. 7. *from the bottom, for four read five.*
 8. *last line, insert these after besides.*
 20. *To the money stated in this page, supply Scots.*
 21. l. 2 *from the bottom, for its read this.*
 30. l. 17 *for formerly read afterwards.*
 32. l. 7. *dele of it. l. 17 for there read here.*
 32. l. 15. *for considerable read considerably.*
 34. l. 4. *from the bottom, for this read thus.*
 36. l. 18. *for . One read ; and one.*
 41. l. 8 *from the bottom, after delegate insert of this burgh.*
 42. l. 6. *from the bottom, insert the before possession.*

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF SCONE.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By ROBERT THOMAS, *Preacher of the Gospel.**Name.*

THIS parish has always borne its present name. It is sometimes written *Scoon*, but more frequently *Scone*. The word is supposed to be of Gaelic original. The people in the Highlands call it *Skain*, those who live at a remote distance pronouncing both vowels, and those who live nearer pronouncing the *a* only, which they sound like the English long *a*.

The word *Skàin* in Gaelic is said to signify a rent. But though there are several chasms, or deep openings of the earth formed in several places by the constant action of two brooks; yet, there is no mark of any such convulsion of nature, as this origin of the name might be supposed to indicate.

Situation, and Extent.—It is situated nearly due north from Perth, in the county and presbytery of Perth, and in the synod of Perth and Stirling. It is bounded on the west by the river Tay, which separates it from the parishes of Perth

and Redgorton; on the north and east by the parish of St. Martin; and on the south and east by the parish of Kinnoul.

Its form is irregular; but, on the whole, it approaches in a certain degree to a square. Its extent from north to south, as well as from east to west, is about 3 English miles; and consequently it consists of about 9 square miles, containing about 4600 Scots acres. Of these, about 3000 are under grass and corn; 700 planted; 500 common, (now under submission in order to a division), and the rest is either occupied by roads and villages, or is hitherto in an uncultivated state.

Appearance.—From the side of the Tay, on the west, the surface of the earth continues, on the whole, to rise to the east border, where it is considerably above the bed of the river. Though there is a considerable part of it in level ground; yet every where, here and there, it forms itself into small hills, of a gradual and easy ascent. But there are no rocks or precipices, except in the quarries, and scarcely any steep places, except by the sides of brooks. Every spot almost is arable; and there is scarcely a hill, which is not already either planted or ploughed. The whole of the west part of the parish has a cultivated and beautiful appearance. Towards the middle, and the east border, there is a considerable quantity of ground planted; and some spots which are still in a state of nature. The proportion of what is uncultivated is comparatively small; and every year serves to diminish it. The whole surface, will, most probably, in a few years, be either corn fields, or plantations. Those few spots on the west side, which have hitherto been neglected, are covered chiefly with furze and broom; and those of the same description, on the east, chiefly with dwarf-heath.

Soil.

Soil.—In some places, especially, near the Tay, the soil is a strong rich clay; in others, it is light and gravelly; and in others, good loam. Every sort of soil in the parish has been much improved by the use of lime, and the practice of summer fallowing. On the richer lands, are raised good crops of wheat, barley, oats, pease and beans, flax, grass, cabbages, potatoes and turnip. The lighter lands are not supposed to be so well suited to the culture of wheat; but they afford all the other productions which have been mentioned.

Climate.—From the high situation of this parish, relatively to the grounds on the opposite side of the Tay, it might perhaps be expected, that the cold should be more sensibly felt here, than in the vicinity; yet this is not the case, except perhaps on the higher grounds, towards the eastern boundary. The greater part of the parish has a fine south-western exposure; the higher grounds shelter the lower; and several plantations on the north and east, afford a considerable shelter to almost the whole.

That chain of hills, which shelter the Carse of Gowrie, and which, on the north side, reach within a short space of the south border of this parish, serves as a barrier to those mists, which, coming up the Tay from the sea, frequently spread themselves over a great part of the neighbouring parishes; the same hills attract those vapours, which are exhaled from the surface of the earth, in the south-east part of the parish; the current of air, produced by the running of the Tay, is the cause of a similar effect, all along the west border; and the natural inequality of the surface, in most places, together with the drains which have been made, carry off both the water which arises from springs, and that which falls down in showers.

The air therefore is upon the whole, mild and dry. A late physician, much and justly reputed for his skill in his profession, had such an opinion of the salubrity of the air of Scone, that he used to call this parish the Montpelier of Perthshire.

Diseases.—The inhabitants are afflicted with no peculiar diseases, but in general enjoy a very great share of health; though, there are few or no instances amongst them of remarkable longevity. The case of three ladies, sisters, who died some years ago, was singular. The eldest lived to the age of 91, the youngest to 87, and the other to 88 or 89. Fevers are rare. The ague is now scarcely heard of. Rheumatism is the most frequent complaint; and, what is very remarkable, was little known till within the last 40 or 50 years. Whether this has been owing to a change in the clothing or food of the inhabitants, to some change in the atmosphere, or to all these circumstances combined with other causes, is not ascertained.

The prejudices of the greater part of the people against inoculation for the small pox, have prevented this salutary practice from becoming general; though they have every argument from experience in its favour, as scarcely any of those children who have been inoculated, have died.

Rivers.—There are two brooks, which serve three meal-milns, a saw-miln, and a waulk-miln; and produce a small sort of trout. But the Tay is the only river in the parish. The tide flows about a mile above the bridge of Perth, opposite to the house of Scone, and to this place the river is navigable by large boats. Above this, it becomes shallow and rapid; but here it is deep and placid, like a floating mirror, reflecting the beautiful scenery on its banks. It has been
said,

said, that no other river in Britain discharges more fresh water into the sea than the Tay. It produces eel, some perch and pike, and four or five different sorts of trout in great abundance, some of which have a fine flavour, and weigh, at an average, about two pounds. But the most valuable fish which it affords, is salmon, which is reckoned excellent, and of which the greater part is exported to London and the foreign markets. The fishings are chiefly rented of the proprietors by the merchants of Perth, who employ the fishermen. There are five different fishings belonging to the parish, which occupy 13 boats and 30 fishermen. The fishing season is from the 29th of November, to the 26th of August; but both the salmon and the finest trout are supposed to be in their greatest perfection in the month of May. The trout, having never been appropriated, affords excellent sport to the gentlemen, who are fond of angling.

The Tay also abounds in the pearl-oyster. Numbers of pearls were fished out of it about thirty-five years ago.

Quarries.—There are six or seven quarries of excellent free stone. In some of these, the stone is of a reddish, and in others of a gray or azure colour. They differ also in degrees of hardness and fineness; but all of them are fit for the purposes of building.

Population.—The population of this parish has increased very much within the last twelve years, and is still increasing. Scarcely can houses be built fast enough to accommodate those who want them.

This has been owing to several causes. Before the end of the year 1792, our manufacturers had for several years, been
in

in a more flourishing condition, than at any former period. This encouraged young people to marry; a bleach-field and cotton-mill, established at Stormont field, added about 100 to the number of inhabitants; and a great many new houses being built in the village of Scone, the constant employment given to workmen and labourers, and the facility of bringing up a family, encouraged strangers to settle in it. The number of the people has been encreased from these causes, and neither scarcity, epidemical diseases, nor crimes, have hitherto diminished it.

Population Table.

The number of souls, is	1442	between 20 and	
_____ Males	726	50	660
_____ Females	716	between 50 and	
Inhabitants of villages	840	70	132
_____ of the country	602	between 70 and	
Annual average of births		80	18
for the last 10 years	40	between 80 and	
_____ of deaths	20	90	2
_____ of marriages	14	Farmers families	27
The proportion of the annual		Heritors resident	7
births to the whole popula-		Do. non-resident	4
tion, is nearly as 1, to 36,		Feuars possessing from half an	
_____ of the annual deaths		acre of land, to 2 acres	25
to the whole population, as		Pendiclers	27
- - - 1, to 72,		Inhabited houses	230
_____ of the annual mar-		Houses built within these 10	
riages to the whole popula-		years	63
tion, as - 1, to 103,		Old do. pulled down within	
The number of souls under 10		these 10 years	22
years of age	374	Married persons	548
_____ between 10 and 20		Batchelors above 50	5
- - -	256		
			Unmarried

Unmarried women above	Baker	-	-	1
45 - - - 4	Gardeners	-	-	4
Widowers - - - 21	Apprentices	-	-	14
Widows - - - 30	Male-servants	-	-	95
Members of the Established	Female do.	-	-	89
church - - - 864	Poor on the roll	-	-	12
Seceders - - - 570	Young persons educated	-	-	40
Catholics - - - 5	Flax dressers	-	-	3
Episcopalians - - - 3	Labourers	-	-	24
Shopkeepers - - - 3	Fishermen	-	-	30
Public houses - - - 7	Male bleachers	-	-	30
Procurator (or Attorney)	Female do.	-	-	20
Smiths - - - 8	Boys, cotton spinners	-	-	25
Masons - - - 8	Girls do.	-	-	25
Carpenters - - - 16	Boats	-	-	13
Weavers - - - 70	Carts	-	-	70
Shoemakers - - - 8	Ploughs	-	-	58
Tailors - - - 9	Draught horses	-	-	200
Meal-millers - - - 3	Saddle do.	-	-	3
Saw-miller - - - 1	Cattle	-	-	586
Waulker - - - 1	Sheep	-	-	160

In the above table, the Male and Female servants are not distinguished by any thing but their sex; because all of them, except a few, are employed occasionally either in the house, or in the field.

Prices. The rent of arable land is from 10 to 30 shillings an acre.

— Of a cottage in the country, with 6 roods of ground for a garden L. 1 : 5.

— Of a room, in the village of Scone, 16 feet by 16, with the same quantity of garden ground - - - L. 1 : 10.

Price

Price of 2 such rooms with double the
quantity of ground - - L. 3:0:

And so on in proportion to the size of the dwelling and
ground.

The annual wages of a male servant, who has board and
lodging, is from L. 8 to 10, or even 12; of a female do. from
L. 3, to 4.

School fees <i>per</i> quarter, for	— of a female do. from 5d to
teaching English	1s - - 8d
— Writing	1s 6d — of boys and girls, cotton
Arithmetic and Latin	2s spinners, from 3d to 6d
Wages of a man for the har-	— of a woman for weeding,
vest, from 20s to 28s	&c. from 5d to 8d
— of a woman, from 16s to	The price of best horses, is
- - 20s	- from L. 20 to 25
— of a labourer <i>per</i> day	1s — of inferior, from L. 10 to
— of a fisherman	1s - - 15
— of a carpenter	1s 3d — of best cattle, about L. 10
— of a bricklayer	2s — of inferior from L. 5. to
— of a mason	1s 8d - - L. 7:10
— of a taylor, who receives	— of a sheep, from 30s to 40s
his victuals	8d — of a sow, from 25s to 30s
— of a male bleacher, from	— of a lamb, from 10s to 12s
- - 10d to 1s	— of a hive of bees, L. 1:1

Productions.—The vegetable and animal productions are
pretty much the same here, as in most places of the lowlands
of Scotland. As the parish exports annually two thirds of its
corn, it produces as much in one year, as should serve for
the internal consumption of three. Most of the old wood,
amongst which are some very fine trees, was planted by
the

the Viscount of Stormont, grandfather of the present Earl of Mansfield, about seventy years ago. Three haw-thorn trees at the house of Kinkarochie are remarkable for their size. The largest covers with its top a circle, on the earth, 14 yards in diameter; and measures round the middle of the trunk, 9 feet. The old wood consists chiefly of Scotch firs, planes, ashes, elms, and horse chesnuts. The firs have been of the greatest service for building, fuel, and other purposes. The trees, in the young plantations, are the Scotch fir, the larch, the spruce fir, and various other sorts. All of them were planted within the last 18 years, and are in a very thriving state.

The breed of horses and cattle has of late been much improved, partly by their being better fed, and partly by a better kind being introduced. The Countess of Mansfield, a patroness of husbandry, has led the way, by introducing a breed of cattle, remarkable for their size and shape. Her Ladyship, has also turned her attention towards improving the breed of sheep, by bringing to that extensive lawn, in which the house of Scone is situated, a flock, partly of the Warwick-shire breed, so much esteemed for their carcases; and partly of the Spanish, so remarkable for the fineness of their wool. The English breed answers very well; but the experiment upon the Spanish has not yet been fully made. Except 30 or 40, all the sheep in the parish are her Ladyship's property.

Agriculture.—It appears from the face of the country, from those rough grounds and moor-lands, which within a few years, have been converted into beautiful and fertile corn-fields, that modern husbandry is well understood by the farmers. Some of them adopt the following rotation of crops; fallow, wheat, pease and beans, or other green

crop, barley, grafs, and laftly oats. Others divide their farms into five, inftead of fix parts: The firft part is, partly fallow; and partly a green crop; the fecond is under wheat and barley, with grafs feeds; the third and fourth, are under grafs; and the fifth, under oats. And then the rotation begins again with fallow, or a green crop.

The new plough, ufed here, is confidered as an improvement upon Small's. It has an iron head for the fock, inftead of having the fock upon the fheath; and the mould-board, which is caft iron, is convex inftead of being concave. The Scotch plough alfo is ftill ufed. Flax and potatoes are raifed in confiderable quantities. Cabbage and turnip alfo are raifed for feeding cattle; but chiefly for rearing young ftock. Every family almoft now feeds a pig with potatoes and a little corn; the bacon of which eats very well with their potatoes; but they have not yet learnt to ufe turnip for culinary purpofes.

There are 2 farms about 400 acres, 4 above 200, 6 between 100 and 200, a much greater number from 60 to 100, and a ftill greater number of pendicles*; fome of which are rented by mechanics, who, befides attending to their ground, follow alfo their proper occupations. The fmall farmers or pendiclers fell little or none of their corn. Their wives, daughters and maid-fervants fpin the flax raifed on the farm; and the money which the yarn brings, pays the rent. It is furprifing how fome of thefe fmall tenants, poffeffing only about 12 or 14 acres,

* Pendicles are fmall portions of land, which do not enable the occupier to keep horfes fufficient for its cultivation, for which he either depends on the affiftance of the farmers in the vicinity, or on the help of his neighbours who are in the fame fituation, giving them the fame affiftance in his turn. He feldom keeps more than one horfe, and one or perhaps two cows.

acres, should be able to maintain a family of nearly as many persons ; and yet, upon entering their cottages, one generally finds them snug and comfortable, and is pleased with seeing a group of happy faces. Many of them, however, have either the profits of tradesmen, or work as day labourers. It has been more common here to unite the small, than to divide the larger farms. The population is usually much greater, where the farms are small, than where they are large ; yet, the union of farms has not diminished the number of the inhabitants of this parish * ; the village of Scone and Stormont-field furnishing them both with habitations and employment.

If the proprietors of the soil, who dispossess the small to make room for the greater farmers, would build villages on their estates, the population would seldom be diminished in any situation ; the wealth and comfort of the people would increase in proportion to the superior cultivation of the land ; the farmers would find a market for a great part of their produce at home, and would have day labourers at command ; and the proprietors themselves would derive advantages from the villages, far beyond the expence of erecting them.

Inclosures.—A great part of the parish is inclosed ; and, on some farms, young hedges of hawthorn are raising, with greater attention than was formerly given to this kind of improvement. In the higher lands, the benefit of inclosures is fully understood ; but in some of the lower, fencing by hedges and dykes is disapproved of, the soil not admitting of pasture.

K 2

Exports.

* The number of souls in the parish at present, is	☞	1442
The population in 1755 was	☞	889
The number of inhabitants increased	☞	553

Exports.—This parish exports annually two thirds of its corn, besides cattle, a few sheep and swine, (but no horses), a considerable quantity of salmon, linen cloth, and free-stone, and different articles of provision. It imports lime, coals, iron, ropes, and several other articles of provision and cloathing; but no meal, and no grain, excepting what is necessary for change of feed.

Gardening.—Several of the gentlemens gardens are elegant, particularly the Earl of Mansfield's; and most of them are well stocked with vegetables, and fruit trees, and bushes. And not only the handicraftsmen, at their leisure hours, but the farmers, begin to pay more attention to their gardens than formerly; a certain indication of the thriving state of this part of the country, men commonly attending, first, to what is necessary, and then to what is commodious and ornamental. Indeed, the appearance both of the country and the people, compared with what it was twenty years ago, plainly show, that they are "growing richer and happier"; an evident proof of the excellence of that constitution of government, under which we have the good fortune to live.

Church and School.—The church is a very handsome modern building, and is much decorated by an ancient family seat of very curious workmanship belonging to the Earl of Mansfield. It was built in the year 1784; the manse in the year 1743; and the latter has been frequently repaired. The living, including the glebe, is about L. 100 Sterling. The Right Hon. the Earl of Mansfield is patron. The present incumbent, the Rev. Mr John Wright, is married, and has five children *. Besides, the parish church, there is also a meeting-

* Mr Wright, who was long in bad health, died since this account was written.

meeting-house, belonging to the Burgher-Seceders. The schoolmaster has a good house, which serves him both for a school and a dwelling house. His salary as schoolmaster, and his emoluments as session clerk, amount together to L. 13 : 4 : 8. Sterling. The rest of his income depends on the fees he receives from his scholars. The church, meeting-house, and school are in the village of Scone ; which is ornamented also with a market cross, formerly a handsome one, but now much injured by the hand of time.

State of the Poor.—The money which supports the poor, is annually about L. 26 Sterling. It arises from funds in money and heritable property, from dues at deaths and marriages, and from the weekly collections at the church door. The poor on the parish list, are, at an average, about twelve. They receive monthly 3s. for their support ; but, others also receive occasional supply. There are no begging poor in the parish.

In the year 1782, the crop was very bad and much injured. But then, the present Earl of Mansfield, attentive to the situation of the parish, sent 30 quarters of seed corn, to be distributed amongst his tenants for the same quantity of the produce in return ; and also L. 30 Sterling to be distributed amongst the poor of the parish ; though this was not the only time, they have experienced his bounty ; sums, nearly of the same value, being frequently sent them by his Lordship.

Fuel.—In summer, the chief fuel is furze, broom, and the weedings of the young plantations ; in winter, coals, which are bought at Perth and Bridge-end, a village on the side of the Tay, opposite to Perth, at 3s. 6d. the boll of 40 stones averdupois weight.

Villages.

Villages.—There are a number of villages. Four of the more populous contain from 55 to 70 souls. Scone is the most remarkable. It stands in a plain relatively high except on the east; and, though sheltered, is sufficiently airy and healthful. It consists of 2 streets and several lanes, one of the streets, being remarkably wide, serves for a market place. A considerable part of it has been either built or rebuilt within the last 10 years. The new houses are substantial and neat; and many of them contain several families. The number of souls in the village is 466.

Stormont-field Bleach-field.—This place, presently possessed by Messrs Thomas and John Barland, had its name changed from Colenhaugh, to Stormont field, in honour of the proprietor, the Earl of Mansfield, formerly known by his title of Viscount of Stormont. It is situated on the Tay, exactly opposite to Luncarty, and in a pleasant field, along the side of the river, consisting of about 130 acres. A canal, about 3 miles in length, and 18 feet in breadth, cut, at a very great expence, through steep banks of the Tay, rock-marle and whin stone, always furnishes it with an abundant supply of excellent water from the river. A small canal also from the brook of Inverbuilt, affords an occasional supply; and the bleaching grounds are of a fine dry soil, and have an excellent exposure. Adjoining to the bleaching-miln, is a miln for spinning cotton, upon a small scale. The house for the machinery, is a large structure, substantially built, of free-stone, and noble in its appearance. Some of the other houses are elegant; and all of them remarkably neat and commodious.

Besides the fall of water, which, at present, drives three wheels, there are likewise three other separate falls; one of eight feet, and two of four, equal, by the command of water,

to turn any weight of machinery; which, when fully occupied, will be an important addition to the industry, and population of the parish; the work, it is presumed, being as yet but in its infancy. There is here bleached, in a very satisfactory manner, a great quantity of britannias, diapers, and every other sort of cotton and linen cloth. As labourers are scarce in this part of the country, the only thing wanting to compleat Stormont-field, is an independent village, properly laid out, which would be of the greatest advantage, both to the proprietor, and the public at large. Mr William M'Alpin, a man of genius and enterprize, has the merit of having begun, and carried on to a considerable length the canal and the buildings of this place.

There is besides bleached, by the pendiclers in the summer season, on a brook that runs through the parish, some linen cloth. The only other manufacture carried on by the inhabitants is linen, which employs about 50 weavers. The rest of their handicraftsmen are employed either in weaving house-hold cloth, or in working for masters in Perth.

Bridges and Roads.—The roads and bridges were formerly made and repaired by the statute labour, sometimes literally exacted, and sometimes commuted into money; but this method being found insufficient for the great roads, and turnpike acts being obtained, the roads will soon be very good. Two turnpike roads intersecting the parish, (and its vicinity to Perth,) but not yet compleated, are justly considered by the inhabitants, as very great advantages.

Eminent Men.—It is very probable, that the famous John Hay, alias John de Luce, chief of the Hay's, was a native of this parish. The inhabitants still point to the village, and even to the vestiges of the house, in which he lived, when,

like a patriot indeed, he hastened from the plough, to drive the Danes from his native land.

But it is certain, that it can boast of having given birth to the late very eminent Earl of Mansfield. Yet, from what appeared in the Newspapers, on the death of that Nobleman, it should seem, that, as seven cities contended for the birth of Homer, a neighbouring parish is inclined to dispute with it that honour. What perhaps may have in part contributed to give rise to the opinion, that he was born in Perth, is the following circumstance. The Viscount of Stormont, his father, had a house in that town, in which the family sometimes resided. And it was in the public grammar school of Perth, that the Earl, after having been sometime under the care of a private tutor, received the rudiments of his education. It would be a proud distinction to any school, to have given even the elements of knowledge to a man, who was certainly one of the most eminent personages whom this country has ever produced; and to whom, as Lord Chesterfield says in one of his letters to his son, a numerous and noisy house of commons, would listen with such attention, that one might have heard a pin fall, when he was speaking.

Of the People.—It has been frequently observed, that the inhabitants of the parish of Scone were distinguished, not only by the decency of their dress and appearance, but by the propriety of their manners and behaviour. The fact may be accounted for; in part, from the example of the family of Stormont, who were patterns of religion and good morals; as well as decorous manners; and in part, from the powerful ministry of a very worthy man, who was a long time their pastor; causes, which, in a greater or less degree, will always influence the morals of the people. The general character

rafter of the prefent race is fobriety, induftry, and œconomy. The lower clafs are humane, civil, obliging, and hofpitable. The rich are more : They are genteel, and well bred. But the beft proof of their morals is, that moft of them are in comfortable, and many of them in affluent circumftances, according to their rank in life ; and that no inftance can be remembered, in which any perfons of this parifh fuffered the punifhment of crimes.

The public houfes, fimply as fuch, would not, it is prefumed, have any bad influence on the morals of the people, were it not for the immense quantities of whifky which they retail, in place of well-made ale, which was formerly the only beverage. There are men in this part of the country, who confider the large diftilleries as gulphs, which fwallow up prodigious quantities of grain, and difcharge nothing but what ferves to deftroy the health and morals of the people ; and they very much defire that the legiflature would devife fome way, which, feconded by the example of the great, fhould bring again into fafhion the ufe of home-made fermented malt liquors, which the encouragement given to the diftilleries has brought almoft entirely into difufe.

Antiquities.—Near the eaft boundary of the parifh are two circles, faid to be druidical temples. They are within 14 yards of each other. Each circle confifts of nine large whin ftones, placed at unequal diftances ; and each circle is feven yards in diameter.

The Roman military road, leading from the camp at Ardoch, to the bottom of the Grampians, enters this parifh on the weft, a little above a farm houfe on the Tay, and paffes through, till it leaves it on the north-eaft quarter.

On the other fide of the river, oppofite to the place where the road enters the parifh, flood the ancient town of Bertha,

now a hamlet, bearing that name ; and it is said, that there, in former times, there was a bridge over the river, and that several large beams of oak, yet to be seen under the water, formed a part of it.

About a quarter of a mile up the river from this place, are the vestiges, it is supposed, of an encampment. It is a spot of ground inclosed, on the west, by the Tay ; and on the other sides, by a fosse. Its figure is nearly an oblong, and its circumference, about 535 yards. A small brook runs through it ; and on the south side of this brook, about 30 yards up from the river, are the vestiges of a fortification, called the Silver castle ; probably, from a vulgar idea that money was hid in it. This place is situated, nearly about half way between the Roman military road, and a place on the opposite side of the river, where the battle of Luncarty was fought between the Danes and the Scots. But time, and the recent operations of the plough, have now almost obliterated those monuments of ancient times.

Perhaps the vestiges of the famous John Hay's house, and the cross of Scone, may be classed among the antiquities. The former is nothing but the remains of a cottage, a little raised above the surface of the earth, and covered with grass. The latter is a narrow upright stone, thirteen feet high, ornamented at the top, and placed in an octagonal stone, that rests on a quadrangular flight of steps.

But what excites the curiosity of every person who has been interested in reading the history of Scotland, and attracts the attention of almost every traveller, is Scone. This being anciently the residence of our kings, and the scene of the most interesting and splendid actions, some account of it must be expected by the reader. At the Reformation the mob, from Dundee and Perth, impelled by their aversion to Popery, and by private resentment, as well as the hope of booty,

booty, spoiled and burnt both the ancient Abbey and Palace *. The Abbey wall, from the foundations which have been dug up, is supposed to have inclosed a space of 12 acres.

"This Abbey, says Spottiswood, was founded by Alexander the first, 1114, and was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and St. Michael. It was the place where our kings were accustomed to be crowned, and where the fatal marble chair, now at Westminster, was usually kept. It formerly belonged to the Culdees, if we trust George Buchanan, and several other authors; and it was erected into a temporal lordship, in favour of Sir David Murray, a cadet of the family of Tullibardine, in the year 1604" †.

It is uncertain whether the present house of Scone, a seat of the Earl of Mansfield, stands on any part of the foundations of the former buildings. Two lines of a Scotch poet, a native of Perth ‡, who had every opportunity of informing himself with regard to this particular, would lead a person to suppose, that it does.

*As we thus talk'd, our barge did sweetly pass,
By Scone's fair Palace, sometime Abbey was.*

It is about a mile due north, from the town of Perth. It stands upon a piece of rising ground, about half a mile from the Tay; and is situated in the midst of an extensive lawn, which slopes gradually towards the river.

Round the house, except on the south west, where it is open, runs a shrubery and young plantation, intersected with serpentine gravel walks; and intermixed with old trees,

L 2

among

* Knox's History of the Reformation,

† Spottiswood's History of Religious houses.

‡ Mr Henry Adamson.—See Cant's History of Perth.

among the largest and finest in the country. Immediately before it, and on each side, the verdant surface of the lawn spreads itself, covered with daisies, and variegated with trees planted singly, and in clumps.

This scene, bounded by the river, which flows gently beneath, is admired by all strangers who visit this country; and is greatly heightened by the beauty and variety of the banks of the river, as far as Perth.

Nothing can be more delightful than the prospect from the house, to the westward. On the left hand, at the distance of two or three miles, the hills above the Tay, and the Earn, seem to unite, forming a vast theatre, decorated with plantations, and corn-fields. On the right, at the distance of fifteen miles, the Grampian mountains assume a similar form; and in the middle, industry and skill have given a gay and cultivated aspect, to a very extensive tract of country.

The house itself is in that stile of architecture which prevailed about a century and a half ago; which gives it a certain noble and venerable air, more pleasing to men of genuine taste than the most finished modern buildings. It is about 70 yards in length, and 35 in breadth. The gallery which is on the east side, is 140 feet long. The ceiling is of timber, and arched. On the one side of it is painted the hunting of a stag in all its different stages; on the other are represented the exercise of hawking, the hunting of the wild boar and the wild bull. It is said that king James the sixth appears in every scene; that the groupes of figures attending him are the nobles of the court; and that all of them are exact representations of the originals. The spaces between the different scenes are filled up with the arms of the family, with fruit and flower pieces and other ornaments. In the opinion of artists, the design in these paintings is good, and the faces animated.

animated. The colours appear to have been vivid ; but by accidents and the waste of time the whole has suffered considerable damage.

In a chamber off the north end of the gallery is the canopy of state, used by the present Earl of Mansfield, when ambassador at the court of Versailles, now converted into a bed ; and in another off the south end, which is called the king's room, is a bed of damask sattin of a light orange colour, and several antique chairs covered with the same sort of cloth. In a chamber on the west side of the house, which is called the Queen's room, is a bed of flowered crimson velvet, said to have been the work of Queen Mary, when a prisoner in the castle of Lochleven. These chambers, as well as the drawing room, are decorated with marble chimney pieces, with hangings of fine tapestry, with portraits of the ancestors and relations of the family, and of other great personages who lived in former times ; and with other sorts of painting, some of which, though injured by the hand of time, are still admired. The dining-room is spacious and elegant. In this room is a superb marble chimney-piece, on the upper part of which are the arms of Britain, and on the lower those of the family of Stormont ; and at one end of it are two very elegant full length portraits of their present majesties, drawn in their royal robes, and as large as the life.

About 100 yards due east from the south east corner of the house are the vestiges of the old abbey church ; but such changes does time introduce, that, on that spot where our ancient kings were crowned, there now grows a clump of trees.

Between 60 and 70 yards north from this place is what is vulgarly called the Boot-hill. It is likewise called *Omnis terra*, or Every man's land. Hume in his history of the Douglases gives us the origin of this name, " that when Robert
" Bruce

“ Bruce was crowned 27th March 1306, Sir James, the 8th
 “ Lord Douglas, assisted, and cast into a heap, as did the o-
 “ ther Barons, a quantity of earth of his lands of Douglas ;
 “ which, making a little hill, is called Omnis terra. This
 “ was the custom of those times, by which homage, they
 “ who held the king of Scotland supreme under God were
 “ distinguished from others. It is said that the Barons of
 “ Scotland could receive investiture of their lands as lawfully by
 “ delivering earth and stone from this spot, as from their own
 “ lands. We are informed also, that anciently the conven-
 “ tions of the nobles were held in this place *”.

The tradition of the people of the parish concerning the Boot-hill is, that at the coronation of a king, every man who assisted brought so much earth in his boots, that every man might see the king crowned, standing on his own land ; and that afterwards, they cast the earth out of their boots on this hill, upon which account it obtained the names of Boot-hill and Omnis terra. But, perhaps, Boot-hill is a corruption of Moot-hill or Mute-hill ; which is probably the same with the Saxon word, folk-mote, and may signify the hill of meeting. The people in the Highlands, it is said, call the Boot-hill, at this day, Tom-a-mhoid, i. e. the hill where justice is administered. On the Boot-hill David, 1st viscount of Stormont, built an elegant parish church about the year 1624, when the old abbey church or what remained of it fell. But, a few years ago, this church wanting repairs, and being insufficient to accommodate the parishioners, was, except the aisle, thrown down, and the present parish church built in the village of Scone.

On the north wall of this aisle is a very stately marble mo-
 nument

* Cant's history of Perth.

ument erected to the memory of David, first Viscount of Stormont. It seems to have been intended for an altar-piece, and to represent the inside of a chapel or oratory. In the middle, towards the lower part of it, is a statue of his Lordship as large as the life, clad in armour, kneeling on a cushion at an altar, a book lying open before him, and the palms of his hands joined, as if earnestly engaged in devotion. On either side is a man in armour, somewhat smaller than the life; the one said to be the Marquis of Tullibardine, the other the Earl Marischall. Above these are several emblematical figures; towards the top are the arms of the family; and, over all, an angel, who seems to look down with approbation.

On the east wall is an elegant monument of blue and white marble, erected in honour of Lady Stormont, first Lady to the present Earl of Mansfield. On a pedestal, in a marble niche in the wall, stands a large urn of white marble, in which is inclosed the Lady's heart embalmed; and below, on the pedestal, a remarkably elegant and pathetic Latin inscription, expressive of the Lady's great worth, and the regret occasioned by her death; which does much honour, not only to the genius and erudition, but to the heart, of its noble author.

As we advance by a gravel walk from the house to the eastward, we are agreeably surprised to find ourselves, on entering the shrubery, in the midst of a small lawn of a circular form, surrounded by shrubs and trees of unequal height, which, together with the surface of the earth, exhibit the appearance of a crowded amphitheatre. Here, and all along the shrubery and young plantation, luxuriant nature may be seen to wanton in all the richness, variety and gaiety of foliage. So rich is the soil, that some of the trees, though planted within these nine years, have attained the height of thirty feet.

To the southward of this lawn is the kitchen garden, enriched with all sorts of culinary vegetables, with fruit trees and bushes, and ornamented with walks and flowers. On the west side of it is a romantic bower, which immediately calls to our remembrance the fair Rosamond's.

From the garden we pass into the nursery. It is an oblong park of about 2 acres, having a fine southern exposure, and being surrounded by a number of tall and stately trees, which, at the same time that they shelter the young plants, give the place a remarkably pleasing and venerable air.

On the south of the nursery is a hollow or den, planted on each side with shrubs and forest trees, and enlivened by a small brook, which runs through it. Along the side of this brook is a winding gravel walk, which leads to the lawn, in which the palace is situated.

As the ground rises, the spectator, on the opposite side of the Tay, sees every object distinctly, round, and swelling to the eye.

Ancient Custom.—Every year on Shrove-Tuesday, the batchelors and married men drew themselves up at the cross of Scone on opposite sides. A ball was then thrown up, and they played from 2 o'clock till sun set. The game was this. He who, at any time got the ball into his hands, run with it till overtaken by one of the opposite party, and then, if he could shake himself loose from those on the opposite side, who seized him, he run on : if not, he threw the ball from him, unless it was wrested from him by the other party ; but no person was allowed to kick it. The object of the married men was to hang it, i. e. to put it three times into a small hole in the moor, the *doal* or limit on the one hand ; that of the batchelors was to drown it, i. e. to dip it three times into a deep place in the river, the limit on the other. The party
who

who could effect either of these objects, won the game. But, if neither party won, the ball was cut into two equal parts at sun-set. In the course of the play one might always see some scene of violence between the parties; but, as the proverb of this part of the country expresses it, *all was fair at the ball of Scone.*

This custom is supposed to have had its origin in the days of chivalry. An Italian, it is said, came into this part of the country, challenging all the parishes, under a certain penalty in case of declining his challenge. All the parishes declined the challenge excepting Scone, which beat the foreigner; and in commemoration of this gallant action the game was instituted.

Whilst the custom continued, every man in the parish, the gentry not excepted, was obliged to turn out and support the side to which he belonged; and the person who neglected to do his part on that occasion was fined; but the custom being attended with certain inconveniencies, was abolished a few years ago.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF GARGUNNOCK.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES ROBERTSON.

Situation.

GARGUNNOCK, or Gargownno (as it is called in some old records), is situated about six miles west of the town of Stirling, on the south side of the Forth, by which it is separated from the parishes of Kilmadock, and Kinkardine. It is bounded on the east and south, by the parish of St. Ninians, and on the west, by Kippen, Balfron, and Fintry.

Name.—It seems of no great importance, to ascertain the precise meaning of the word Gargownno. Different etymologists will give different explanations of the names of places, in which there is often more imagination than knowledge. Gargownno is probably of Celtic origin ; descriptive of the particular spot, on the banks of the Forth, where a small fort stood, of which there is some account in the History of Sir William Wallace. There we read of the * Peel of Gargownno, in which

* Peel signifies a fort.

which an English party was stationed, to watch the passage of the Frew, in its neighbourhood. Wallace with a few followers, took the fort by stratagem in the night, while the English were off their guard. The curious stranger may be conducted to the ground which it once occupied; and may perhaps regret, that scarcely a stone is now left to tell its story. There is something so venerable in the abodes of our ancestors (though in ruins), that it is much to be wished, the frequent practice of carrying them away, for the purpose of making dykes, or fences, was for ever abolished. The remains of the bridge of Offers, about a quarter of a mile westward of the Peel, by which Wallace crossed the Forth, on his way to the moss of Kinkardine, are still in existence; and for several years, it has been in agitation to rebuild it, which would greatly facilitate the communication betwixt the parishes on both sides of the river, and encourage tenants to give an additional rent for their farms.

Extent.—This parish extends about three miles and an half, from east to west, and from north to south it measures six.

Division of Lands.—All the estates consist of muir, dry field, and carse farms. On the south is the muir, which is part of a hilly tract of ground, stretching out from Stirling to Dumbarton. That portion of the muir which belongs to this parish, consists of about 3000 acres, of which each heritor has a division, lying in a direct line with his other lands.

The muir has of late become an object of greater consideration, than in former periods. The demand for such pasture is much increased; and this has naturally led the proprietors to set a higher value on it, than they were accustomed to do a few years ago. Every one has his own proportion

proportion accurately measured; and its worth is now so well understood, that sometimes it is no easy matter to settle a dispute about a few acres; which perhaps, in other times, would have gone for nothing. That part of the muir, which is connected with the estate of Gargunnock, was let, last year, at almost double the former rent; but the proprietor hath this year taken it into his own hands; and having perused Sir John Sinclair's pamphlet on the subject, hath been induced to stock it with the Cheviot breed of sheep. The shepherd, who has been brought from that country, is hopeful the experiment will succeed to a wish, although all the sheep farmers here are strongly prejudiced against the scheme; and predict its total failure, during the winter months. The superior quality, and price of the wool, is a sufficient justification of the attempt; and if the plan is successful, it will certainly turn out one of the most beneficial of all our improvements. Men of property alone are qualified to engage in designs of this nature. If they are successful, they will soon be followed by others; and society at large will reap the good fruits of their labours. Or, supposing the undertaking should prove abortive, they are sufficiently able to sustain the loss. That man is deserving of praise, who employs his substance in such laudable pursuits, as according to his best judgement may be useful to the community, as well as to himself.

It would be of great advantage, both to the landlord and tenant, if care was always taken to annex to the muirland farm some low lying fields, of better pasture; as, where this is not the case, the farmer is often obliged to send his flock during the winter to a great distance, which must be attended with inconvenience. Col. Eidingtoun of Gargunnock is well provided in this respect; a circumstance favourable to his purpose of rearing the Cheviot breed. The tenants of the muir of Boquhan, in this parish, are also well accommodated.

dated. They possess some good pasture ground, immediately below the hill, which adds much to the value of their farms, both with respect to convenience and profit. They are at pains never to overstock those fields, in summer; and the sheep find abundant provision in them, in winter. By this means, the muir is covered by the sheep which it has bred; and the farmer says, that such as have been thus reared at home, turn out much better than those which he hath brought, at any time, from other parts of the country.

It is seldom that any part of the muir is cultivated for raising grain. Attempts have been made this way, but most frequently with little or no success. A few acres near the house of the farmer, have been sown with oats or barley, but a good crop was never expected. The soil and climate forbid the use of the plough. There are extensive meadows; which, after having been covered with water in the winter, and had a little manure thrown upon the surface, produce abundance of excellent hay; and hay-making, which is generally in the month of August, is the principal harvest.

The whole of the muir is without inhabitants, two families excepted, which possess that part of it belonging to General Campbell of Boquhan. Gargunnock-muir, as has been stated above, is in the hands of its own proprietor; but the other divisions are rented by sheep farmers in neighbouring parishes. To reside at a distance from the farm must always be attended with disadvantage. It is impossible the necessary attention can be given to the flock. Or, if the trust is committed to a shepherd, whose visits are only occasional, and who cannot be constantly at hand, especially amid the storms of winter, when much exertion is often requisite to save the animals; it is easy to see the risque must be greater, than when the master himself, or some such interested person, resides on the spot.

The two muirland houses have nothing in appearance to recommend

commend them; and yet the low roof, the sort of door which obliges a person for the sake of his head to make a profound bow as he walks in, and the pitiful window, which scarcely affords him sufficient light to show him where he is, are inconveniencies soon forgotten, when he is placed by the fire side. The inhabitants though dwelling in a desert, have a civility of manners which does them honour. An old soldier who came to their door, was kindly received, and continued for years to make their house his home. All the return they could expect, was a little amusement in the winter evenings, while he rehearsed the story of sieges and battles.

If houses for the entertainment of the public cannot be expected in a country that is thinly inhabited, this disadvantage is so much the less felt, that the people are remarkable for hospitality. There is a kindness to the stranger, which is seldom to be met with in larger and more polished societies. If there is little ceremony, there is much good will.

In many places of the muir, there are roots of trees discovered, of a large size, from which it appears to have been once a forest; but now a tree cannot be discerned. While ascending the hill, a little copse-wood may be perceived upon the edge of the rock, which the sheep cannot reach.

The access to the muir is by narrow passes called *ballochs* *. General Campbell of Boquhan has, lately, at no small expence, made an excellent road from the ford of Frew, to his muir-land. This road, six miles long, has opened up an easy communication with the low country. Carts can now approach the heights to carry down peats, the fuel in common use, or to receive the dung that would otherwise be thrown into the water.

* *Balloch* signifies *road*.

ter. In forming this road he met with opposition from the tenants of the muir. The many advantages derived from it have now corrected their mistakes and prejudices, in opposing what was so evidently intended for their benefit.

It is delightful to look down from the hills to the cultivated plain below. The prospect is extensive and beautifully diversified. The windings of the Forth, the fertile valley, adorned on both sides with the seats of the proprietors, and stretching from west to east farther than the eye can reach; and the range of mountainous country on the north and south, serving as a wall to shelter it from the storms, form altogether one of the most picturesque scenes in Scotland. The beauty of the landscape is greatly increased of late, by the very extraordinary improvements in the mofs of Kincardine, belonging to Mr Drummond; where many families, encouraged by the liberal terms held out to them by that gentleman, have settled and live comfortably. As their number is daily increasing, and each family is bound to remove a certain portion of the mofs yearly; it is understood, that the period is at no great distance, when upwards of a thousand acres of carse land will be added to his estate, while in the mean time those who clear the ground of the mofs have an ample reward. The plan has succeeded beyond every expectation. There is no object of curiosity, in this part of the country, equal to the improvements in the mofs of Kincardine.

The inhabitants of this parish look to the hills for signs of the weather, and are seldom disappointed. The setting sun, shining on the face of the mountain, indicates fair weather; while the sudden falling of mist on the top of it, soon after he has arisen bright, is considered as the sure mark of a rainy day.

Several rivulets flowing from different quarters of the muir, and at length uniting, form a succession of cascades, over
craggy

craggy precipices, which after heavy rains, are seen and heard at a great distance. The best view of them is from the rising ground, at the west end of the village of Gargunnoch.

Dryfields—The dryfields occupy the intermediate space, between the muir and the carse grounds. Their name supposes that they are not subject to those floods, which frequently cover the carse, a flat low-lying country. Besides their being considerably raised above the level of the carse, and their gradual ascent to the bottom of the hills, which makes it impossible for water to remain upon their surface; they are also for the most part of such a light sandy soil, as quickly absorbs the rain, and shews the propriety of the name they bear.

The greatest part of the dryfields, until of late, lay waste and wild, overrun with furze and broom. Few of them were subdivided or inclosed or cultivated in any considerable degree. Plantations were not in use, and excepting on the sides of the glens, scarcely any thing like a tree was to be seen. But now it is quite a new scene. All the heritors have united in a regular plan of inclosing with dykes and hedges. Many of the uncultivated spots are covered with thriving plantations. The country is adorned and the farms sheltered.

In giving some account of the present state of the dryfields, Boquhan, the property of Lieut. John F. Campbell claims particular attention, as his unwearied exertions, in executing an extensive plan of improvements for thirteen years past, have beautified and enriched his lands, in a high degree.

The plan has been carried on at an expence, exceeding at times the rental of the estate; and yet such expenditure is not lost, if by this means the value of the ground is proportionably

ably increased, and bread is given to the industrious poor. Fifty or sixty day labourers, and occasionally a greater number, are employed in planting, hedging, draining, ditching, rooting out whatever might obstruct the plough, making good roads from farm to farm, and fencing the young hedges and plantations against injury from cattle. Twenty five pounds sterling *per* week, laid out in this manner, have not only fertilized many waste and barren fields, but have also afforded the means of subsistence to not a few families in the neighbourhood. Every one must have some amusement, and there are amusements which please not on reflexion ; but, when agricultural improvements are viewed merely in the light of an amusement, (though they were attended with no other advantage), it is certainly one of the most rational that can be conceived, and to a generous mind it must give real pleasure, as every step taken to cultivate the country, contributes to the general advantage of the community.

A pamphlet lately published by the General himself, entitled "Notes respecting the Situation and Improvements of the Lands of Boquhan", describes in a lively, entertaining, instructive manner, the change produced on the dryfields, since they came into his possession.

These improvements may not appear so striking to those who saw their commencement, and have been accustomed to observe their progress from day to day, as they must to every one, who may now return to Boquhan, after an absence of several years. Strangers, as they pass along, are charmed with the scene, and survey at leisure that rich variety of natural and artificial beauty which surrounds them.

There is only one thing regretted, by some of the inhabitants. It was necessary, to pull down a considerable number of cottages. Three or four small farms are thrown into one, by which means, the population of the dry fields is diminished ;

ed: but when it is considered that the lands are now cultivated to much better purpose than formerly, that they are doubly fruitful, and that wherever a family is possessed of a few acres only, even the necessaries of life must be procured with difficulty; when to this it is added, that such persons find no worse subsistence as day-labourers, than as tenants of what do not merit the name of farms, it must be owned, that the method which is now almost universally adopted, of having fewer tenants, but larger farms, is of advantage to the country, while it is attended with no permanent loss to any individual.

Better houses are also obtained, than could be expected were the farm to consist of little more than twelve or twenty acres. And this must uniformly be the case, wherever farms are extensive, and let to substantial tenants; as when one farm-house only is required, where three or four perhaps were formerly necessary, the farmer will be better accommodated, in every respect, in a style of elegance unknown in former times, and with less expence to the landlord.

Dr Moir of Leckie, whose lands are situated eastward of Boquhan, has also commenced a plan of improvement, in the dry fields, by inclosing and planting such spots of ground, as are but little adapted to cultivation. When the gentleman, whom he lately succeeded, came to the estate, it was incumbered with heavy debts. He instantly resolved, that his income whatever it might be, should exceed his expenditure, until he gave every one his own. He lived long enough to see his laudable purpose fulfilled. The plan he had laid down, however, made him unwilling to engage in any expensive scheme of improvement; and when the period at length arrived, which brought him the accomplishment of his wishes, he was then so far advanced in life, as to find no enjoyment in pursuits which require all the vigour and activity of youth.

On

On this account, it must be acknowledged, that the lands of Leckie are far behind some other estates in the parish, with respect to those elegant improvements, which usually distinguish the residence of men of fortune and taste.

The present proprietor has already done much to remedy this defect, and last year, more than double the usual number of labourers was employed. The place is beginning to assume a new aspect. A garden is to be immediately formed, in a field very favourable for soil and exposure; and when the family make the house of Leckie their stated abode, which it is expected will soon happen, there is every reason to believe that rapid progress will be made in many other useful and ornamental improvements.

About a mile to the eastward of Leckie, the road from Stirling to Dumbarton passes over a rising ground, and there the dryfields of the barony of Gargunnock are viewed to advantage. The spectator is charmed with the prospect. The cascades from the hills, the glens covered on each side, some with natural wood, and others with regular plantations, the village, the church and manse, the chimney tops of Gargunnock-house just discerned above the wood, the well dressed fields, some for pasture, and others for crops of various kinds, and all inclosed with dykes and hedges in excellent repair, form altogether a very fine landscape. The inclosures however, which are immediately under the hill, and have been long in pasture, are over-run with furze and broom, which are almost their only produce, when not cultivated for several years. Fields of this nature, it has been said by sheep-farmers, are exceedingly useful in the winter, as the sheep feed on furze. But as fields in grass are superior in every respect, the proprietor has begun to clear away this kind of shrubbery. Burning or rooting out furze and broom, does not answer so well, as cutting them a little above the surface

N 2

of

of the ground. The root soon withers and dies. Nothing however can do the business so effectually, as the plough; and when the grounds are again thrown into pasture, the cattle will prevent them from relapsing into their former wild state, for a long course of years.

Gargunnock-house, now the seat of Col. Eidingtoun, stands on an elevated situation, near where the dry-fields are united to the carse; and commands an extensive prospect. Though of an irregular figure, it contains good accommodation for a genteel family. Some parts of it are evidently of ancient date. On the east wing, there is a sort of tower, which gives it a dignified aspect on that quarter; and until a few years ago, there was a high wall, and strong gate in front of it, which indicated that it was designed as a place of strength. It is probable the Peel, which was at a little distance, having been abandoned, or fallen into decay, it became necessary that the mansion of Gargunnock should be so constructed, as to become a place of safety to its inhabitants.

The barony of Gargunnock, for near a century past, belonged to the family of Ardkindlas; and the late Sir James Campbell, whose memory will be long dear to the parish, having resided chiefly here, was at great expence, in making improvements both on the house, and the adjoining fields. The removal of the wall and gate, marked the manners of the times. The garden and orchard, which were immediately under the windows, were also removed; high grounds were levelled; an addition was made to the house, in a modern style: A sloping bank was formed on the east and south, where the garden formerly was, and where sheep now feed; and from the high road, to which he gave a new direction, an approach was made to the house, far superior to any in this part of the country.

The

The house of Gargunnock has acquired an additional grandeur, from the fine front built by Col. Eidingtoun in summer last.

There is one general remark to be made, respecting the dryfields. No portion of them is now allowed to lie neglected. They are almost entirely inclosed throughout their whole extent, to the bottom of the mountain; and the heritors vie with each other, in decorating and fertilizing this part of their property.

Carfe.—Etymologists explain this word, as signifying rich or fertile. This account is justified by fact, for such lands, when properly cultivated, produce luxuriant crops. About forty years ago, the carfe grounds lay almost in a state of nature, unprofitable to the landlord, for it was difficult to find men who would venture to possess them. Bad roads, fields uninclosed, the stiffness of the soil, ignorance of that kind of farming which is suited to the carfe, presented great difficulties when any attempt was made towards improvement. But now it is astonishing to observe the effects of better husbandry. The rivulets flowing from the hills, through the carfe, have been confined within their proper channel, so as to prevent the overflowing of the fields, excepting upon very rare occasions, after excessive rains; many of the farms are fenced with hedges, in a thriving condition; the old division of the lands into outfield, and infield has been abolished. The practice of liming is followed, with great success; a regular rotation of crops has been almost universally adopted; and from 4 shillings sterling per acre, there has been of late a rise to upwards of a guinea, and in some instances, to 30 shillings sterling.

The whole carfe it is believed, was originally under water. Beds of shells, similar to those which are now in the Frith of Forth,

Forth, have been discovered in several places. This seems to justify the opinion, that the carse has, at some distant period, been gained from the sea. In later times, it was covered with what has been called the Caledonian forest; at least it is certain, that when the Romans were in this neighbourhood, the carse was filled with trees of a large size, which they cut down, to dislodge the Scottish army that took refuge there.

The carse property of Mr Graham, an heritor of this parish, still goes by the name of Micklewood, which evidently refers to a former period of its history: For although there are some uncommonly fine trees, chiefly oaks, near his house, which must have been there for some centuries, Micklewood undoubtedly signifies a wood much more extensive, than can now be discerned in this country. The probability is, that not only the whole carse of this and the neighbouring parishes, but the dry-fields also were a forest; as large roots of trees, which are manifestly of very ancient date, are every where found, especially on the sides of the glens.

It appears that after the forest was cut down, what is now called carse, became moss. Not long ago, about two acres still remained in this situation, in the carse of Boquhan, to shew what the whole once was; and at the present day, there are upwards of 1000 acres of moss, in the carse of Blair-drummond, in the parish of Kinkardine, directly north of the lands of Micklewood. This moss, as has been mentioned above, is daily diminishing. Trees of extraordinary bulk are found in it. The trunk separated from the root, and lying at a little distance, with the marks of the ax upon it, proves not only the existence, but the cutting down of the forest. Upon this the moss gradually grew; scarcely any part of it is deeper than another. The cleared grounds are on a level with the fields in culture around them, and so fertile is the land thus won from the moss, that after burning the surface, it bears plentiful

plentiful crops of oats, for several years, without any sort of manure.

The proprietors of Boquhan and Micklewood are the only heritors of distinction who reside in the carse; and their houses and plantations appear beautiful from the heights. The venerable oaks of Micklewood, attract the attention of every visitor. Nor can we omit to mention the row of firs, where herons, time immemorial, have built their nests, and brought forth their young. These firs of Micklewood are the only trees of the kind in the parish to which they resort, and Mr Graham allows those trees to remain chiefly on their account.

All the roads in the carse (excepting that of Boquhan and Micklewood), are so extremely bad, that during the rainy seasons they are almost impassible. At such times, carts cannot be used. Every thing must be carried on horseback, and even in this way it is with difficulty that the business is accomplished. When the farmers are spoken to individually upon the subject, they are constantly complaining of their roads, and seem anxious to assist in repairing them. But no one chooses to set about the work alone. When the time is convenient for one, it is inconvenient for another. Fair weather comes, the road is dry and firm, and the matter drops. In short the proverb holds true; "What is every body's business is no body's."

The best way would be, that the landlord should make good roads to all the farms, and assess the tenants for the interest of what money may be expended. This mode would be acceptable to them all, and of great advantage to the proprietor; as when leases expire, easy access to the farm will be always one of its most powerful recommendations.

The houses on the carse farms are not good. There are two circumstances which must always prevent them from being so. The first is, the farms are small, some twenty, and few
more

more than forty acres. Can good houses be expected in such cases? The second is, the house is built by the tenant who is only allowed some timber by the landlord. It is of consequence fitted up as superficially as possible. If it serves the purpose of a dwelling during the currency of the lease, nothing more is expected. For these reasons, it seems probable, that farm houses will be mean and uncomfortable, wherever they are built at the expence of tenants of a few acres. Upon the farm of Redhall, in this parish, consisting of 100 acres of carse and as much of dryfield, the property of Mr Seton of Touch, there has been lately built an exceeding good house of two floors and with a slate roof and handsome offices, at the expence of the proprietor. Such houses, though for the present expensive, last for ages, without the necessity of those repairs, which are incessantly required for those thatched cottages of half stone and half clay, which begin to decay almost as soon as they are reared. It is to be acknowledged, however, that poor as the carse houses still are, they are much better than they were twenty years ago. They consist at least of two apartments, each having a chimney and a tolerable window: Nor are the cattle now permitted as formerly, to enter at the same door with the family. If the dunghill, which in many instances is still in front of the house, were removed to a proper distance behind it, this would be another step to cleanliness and health.

Soil.—There are few fields, either dryfield or carse, uniformly of the same soil. In the dryfields the soil is chiefly light and sandy, not unfrequently with a red tilly bottom; but in some places it is a rich loam, resembling the low or flat grounds on the banks of the Forth. In the carse there is clay of all colours, but blue is the most prevalent, which is also
the

the best in quality. In a dry spring season, after an open winter, the clod is so hard, that there is great labour and fatigue before the harrows can make any impression. A good deal of frost in winter, and occasional showers in spring, are favourable to the carse; but, if there has been little frost, or, if there is great drought after it is ploughed, the clay becomes impenetrable as the rock, and it is not without much toil that the seed is covered. The nearer the banks of the Forth, the land becomes so much the more pliable. The clay mixt with gravel and sand, form those rich flat fields on the sides of the river, which are in high repute both for corn and pasture.

Farming.—The method of farming now generally observed, proves its superiority by its effects, while new attempts are made from year to year, by those of spirit and enterprize in the way of farther improvement. The use of lime to the amount of 8 chalders per acre in the carse, and 5 in the dry-fields, and the system of having a regular rotation of crops in every field, are the chief circumstances which have produced the very material difference betwixt the present and the former quantity of grain in the parish. It is no unusual thing now to find 10 bolls of wheat or barley upon an acre, which once produced almost nothing but thistles. The carse is sown with wheat, beans, barley, and grass seeds, and after hay has been cut for two years, the field is next in oats, but in some places pasturing is preferred, as it contributes much to enrich the ground.

The late Mr Graham of Micklewood, who had a thorough knowledge of farming, and who pointed out the way to the improvement of the carse, scrupulously observed the following rotation of crops, as what he judged the best, and expressly appointed a particular farm to be so cultivated in all time

coming; persuaded that experience would prove the excellence of his plan. A farm, said he, ought to consist of twelve inclosures, and be managed as follows. Summer fallow, wheat, beans, barley, hay, pasture three years, oats, beans, barley, oats, summer fallow, &c. This order is found to answer so well, that the farm of Woodyett which exactly observes it, has always a better crop than any other in the parish. The three years pasture is the chief thing which distinguishes his plan, and probably contributes most to give it full effect.

The wheat and barley land for the following year, is begun to be ploughed about the end of harvest; and, if the weather is at all favourable, the whole of this business is concluded before the winter sets in. Wheat is sown about the middle of September, thereafter, when the field has been ploughed five or six times. The lee intended for oats, is ploughed during the winter months, if the weather permits. Beans are sown about the end of February, and beginning of March, although in a climate so inconstant as ours, the seed time is uncertain. Beans sown and ploughed down on the 9th of January produced one of the best crops perhaps we ever saw, and so wet was the ground a few years ago, that it was not till the 6th day of April that any seed was sown in this country. The usual time for sowing oats is from the 20th of March to the end of April. The barley is sown after this, and the last in order, though not the least profitable, is the turnip, a species of husbandry introduced of late by some of the heritors, in which the tenants do not seem disposed to follow their example.

Beans are not sown in the dryfields, as the soil is not sufficiently strong to bear a crop of this nature. Peas are sometimes tried to advantage, but for the most part they run to straw, without grain. The rotation of crops in the dryfields

is

is commonly this; oats for two years in succession, and barley the third year with grass seeds, hay for two years, and pasture for three or four. Potatoes are also raised in considerable quantities, and there is not a crop to which the soil is better suited. The return is very encouraging. A boll and a half, and often two bolls are digged where one peck was planted. Some lay the sets in drills, which undoubtedly is the best way, as by this means the rows are distant from each other near 2 feet, the plough can be used among them, throughout the summer, and while this answers every purpose of summer fallow, the earth is raised about their roots, which makes them dry and mealy, and promotes vegetation. A field in potatoes is a fine preparation for wheat or barley. None of the red kind are here used, excepting the yam, which grows to a very large size, and affords good food for cattle.

The carse farmers are careful to procure horses of superior size and strength. For the most part the ploughing, summer fallow excepted, is conducted with two horses, without a driver. Four must at times be employed in summer fallowing. Less progress perhaps may be made with two horses than with four, but the work is better done, as two properly trained, and acquainted with the ploughman's voice, will proceed with more steadiness, and in a straighter direction than four, drawing unequally, and injudiciously driven by an ignorant boy.

In each farm there is a field in wheat, well dressed and limed. It has been found that dung is more advantageous to the wheat than lime, and several farmers now give lime to the barley fields, and dung to the wheat. One of them this year gave the wheat field a part of both, and the return is luxuriant.

Last year, not quite an acre and a half of the minister's
O 2 glebe,

glebe, which had been in pasture for three preceding seasons, was ploughed only once about the end of October, and sown with wheat without lime or manure of any kind, and the crop produced L. 20 : 11 : 6. On boll was sown and fifteen were reaped.

The husbandman is at pains to find good seed for his lands. If the same grain is incessantly used it soon degenerates. This defect is remedied sometimes by exchanging that of the carse, for what grew in the dryfield. But the chief improvement this way is the introduction lately of the early red oats from the south, which produces more meal, and ripens almost a month sooner than any other known in this country. This promises to be a great acquisition to those whose crops are frequently in danger from a late and a wet harvest.

The drill husbandry is not practised here. Attempts were made to introduce it at Boquhan, and premiums were offered by the proprietor to the tenants who should use it successfully. Some had not the spirit to engage in it, and those who began had not patience to persevere.

Great improvement is made in the art of ploughing. Prizes are annually given by the gentlemen in the neighbourhood to those who excel, and the young men eagerly contend for this honour. The old Scottish plough is most generally in use, but Small's is beginning to be in great repute. The old plough is frequently made by the farmers themselves, and at little expence, which is an almost irresistible argument in its favour.

The threshing machine which abridges the labour, and enables the farmer to prepare his grain with great speed for the market, is now set up, not only by some of the heritors, but also by such of the tenants as have large farms. This is acknowledged to be one of the most useful instruments of husbandry, that has ever been invented. It has no other inconvenience,

convenience, than that when a great quantity is threshed out at once, the straw is less relished by the cattle, than when it is fresh from the flail.

Kilns, with heads made of cast-iron, in which twelve bolls of oats can be dried in the course of 6 hours, have been built last year, by the chief heritors. Care must be taken not to over-heat them, and to turn the grain often, as in some instances where these precautions were neglected, the whole has been lost.

The farmer justly complains of the heavy tax, which bears the name of multure. It is indeed a real oppression, when many of the farms are bound to pay the miller the eleventh peck of meal, and in some cases, a similar quantity of beans, and barley. The tenants of Leckie are now free from this bondage. The mill is in the hands of the proprietor, and arable land is assessed at the rate of one shilling sterling per acre for defraying every necessary expence, to which the tenants have cheerfully submitted.

It would be of great benefit to the country, if all that variety of service usually demanded by heritors, besides the proper rent, were relinquished. Great inconvenience arises from the obligation to which the tenants are subjected; to pay fowls, to drive coals, peats and dung; and in harvest, to cut down the proprietor's grain. By being thus in a state of requisition, the tenant is often incapable of attending to his own affairs. On some very important occasions, the opportunity on his own farm is lost, and never returns.

There is an established market in Stirling, for all sorts of grain, to which the neighbouring farmers resort; and they find a ready sale. The price is usually regulated by the Edinburgh and Haddington markets.

The whole secret of farming, seems to ly in preserving the land dry and clean, in observing a regular rotation of crops,
taking

taking care not to impoverish the soil, and to be seldom from home, especially in seed-time and harvest, ready to seize the favourable opportunity when it occurs. “The hand of the diligent maketh rich”.

Population.—It appears that there has been little variation in the population of the parish, for many years. The cotton mills at Balfron and Down, and the great demand at Glasgow a few years ago, for weavers, masons, and day-labourers, considerably diminished the number of souls in this parish. The hope of regular employment, and better wages, enticed several families to settle in those places; where the young and the old were constantly occupied. By the late stagnation of trade, however, many have been obliged to return to their former occupations.

Additions made to some farms, and the spirit of improvement prevailing among the heritors, which has led them to keep a great part of their lands in their own possession, have banished many inhabitants from the dryfields, where the ruins of cottages are frequently to be met with; but in the mean time, the village of Gargunnock, which in the memory of some still alive, consisted only of 3 or 4 houses, now contains about 400 souls.

Number of souls	-	830	Persons above 80 years of	
Males	-	403	age	- 2
Females	-	427	Do. betwixt 70 and 80	9
Families	-	178	Do. betwixt 60 and 70	58
Belonging to the Establish-			Do. betwixt 50 and 60	83
ed church	-	808	Do. betwixt 40 and 50	78
Episcopalians	-	3	Do. betwixt 30 and 40	104
Seceders	-	14	Do. betwixt 20 and 30	147
Relief society	-	2	Do. betwixt 10 and 20	182
Cameronians	-	3	Do. Under 10	167
				Total 830
				The

The population of this parish in 1755, was 956

In 1793, it is - - - 830

The number of souls diminished - 126

Heritors 8, clergyman 1, schoolmaster 1, students 2, farmers 55, weavers 10, shoemakers 2, taylor 7, masons 3, wrights 4, baker 1, innkeepers 3, smiths 4, cooper 1, day-labourers 28, carriers to Edinburgh and Glasgow 2, widowers 11, widows 38, batchelors above forty 8, unmarried women above forty 9, men-servants 94, and maid-servants 62.

Register of Marriages.

No.	No.
A. D. 1744—10	A. D. 1784— 8
1745— 6	1785— 7
1746— 8	1786— 9
1747— 6	1787— 5
1748— 8	1788— 5
1749—13	1789—10
1750— 7	1790— 9
1751—14	1791—10
1752—12	1792—12
1753— 4	1793—11
Yearly average — 8	- 8

Register

Register of Baptisms.

No.	No.	No.
A.D. 1639—25	A.D. 1744—36	A.D. 1784—24
1640—35	1745—28	1785—23
1641—33	1746—19	1786—20
1642—28	1747—32	1787—22
1643—35	1748—48	1788—19
1644—27	1749—31	1789—20
1645—39	1750—36	1790—26
1646—26	1751—30	1791—14
1647—22	1752—32	1792—15
1648—26	1753—36	1793—20
Yearly average—29	- - —34	- - —20

Register of Deaths.—No correct account can be given of the number of deaths, in this parish; as not a few of the inhabitants have their burying ground in other parishes, and it is only when the mort cloth is required, which only happens when the funeral is in the parish-burying ground, that the death is inserted in the register. The tax on baptisms and deaths was paid reluctantly. The one on marriages did not occasion so much alarm, although it was thought some kind of reward ought rather to have been offered by the legislature, to those who entered regularly into that connexion. All have agreed, that there is wisdom in the repeal of those taxes.

Poor.—The number of poor who receive a stated monthly allowance from the Parochial funds, is sixteen, all of whom, one excepted, reside in the village. It is usual also, in the winter season, to give occasional supplies of meal and coals, to

to families who may be in difficult circumstances, but whose names are not on the poor's roll.

There is now no assessment for their maintenance. This has been unnecessary for some years past, as supplies abundantly sufficient have been obtained another way.

George Moir, Esq. of Leckie, now deceased, generously added 100 guineas to the poor's stock in 1788. Being of the Scotch Episcopal communion, he seldom attended the Established church. He saw however, and he had the humanity to acknowledge, that the poor of the parish suffered a loss, by his absence; and when he gave the sum above mentioned, he said, "he was only paying what he owed them." It is to be wished, that wealthy heritors who either do not reside upon their estates, or who are too much in the habit of being absent from church, would imitate him, in this instance, and consider the case of the poor, who must sustain a loss, when those in affluent circumstances withhold their weekly collections at the church. The chief resource for supplying the poor in this parish, and in almost every parish in Scotland, arises from the collections made at the church on the Lord's day.

At the same time, there are perhaps few country parishes in Scotland, where there is more ample provision for the necessities of the poor, than in Gargunnock. The capital stock belonging to the Kirk Session, amounts to L. 365 Sterling, the interest of which, together with the collections, mortcloth-money, the fees paid at marriages, baptisms, &c. afford the widow, and the fatherless, the aged and infirm, a considerable portion of the necessities of life*.

VOL. XVIII.

P

The

* An addition was made to the funds of the poor in 1784, by a very singular circumstance. Two old women, sisters, who lived in the village of Gargunnock, had for many years, every appearance of extreme indigence; though

The care of the poor is laid on the Kirk Session. A committee is appointed to enquire into the circumstances of those who petition for supply; and more or less is granted, according as the case seems to require. Few have less than half a crown per month; while, four, five, six, and in some cases, even ten shillings are distributed to those, who are absolutely helpless. A person must reside in the parish, at least three years, before he can be entitled to the public charity.

No public begging is allowed. We are often harrassed by vagrants from other places; but they are not permitted to acquire a residence in the parish. One seldom gives them anything, without having cause to repent it. They spend every thing they receive at the first ale-house; and for the rest of the day they become a public nuisance. The constables are called, who see them out of the parish; but this does not operate as a punishment, while they are still at liberty. It would be of great advantage, if in every parish, there was some place of confinement for people of this description, to keep them in awe, when they might be inclined to disturb the peace of the town, or of the neighbourhood.

Church,

though without making any application for assistance from the parish. One of them at last, applied to be received on the poor's list; and as no doubt was entertained of her poverty, she received four shillings per month. She died about six months after the commencement of her pension. On examining her bed-cloaths, one purse (of gold and silver), was found after another, till the sum amounted to upwards of forty pounds sterling. Some old chests and barrels were found stored with beef, meal, cheese, and various other kinds of provision; and it was evident that *the poor women* had lived in great affluence. The relations of the deceased, on hearing of the discovery, came from a distance, to lay claim to her effects. But according to the settled rule of the parish, she had bequeathed all her effects to the poor, at the time she was received on the poor's list. One half was allowed to be the property of the sister, who had received no pension from the parish. The other

Church, &c.—The church was rebuilt in 1774, is very neatly fitted up, and in excellent repair. On the top of the east gable, there is the figure of a cross, and on the west, that of a crescent. These were upon the gables of the old church, and have been replaced upon the new. This might have given offence a century ago; but the people are now wiser than to quarrel with a stone of any shape or appearance.

The manse, which was built for a bachelor, is too small for the accomodation of a family. Few houses of the kind, however, are more pleasantly situated. There is a good garden. The soil and exposure are so favourable, that crops and fruits, of various kinds, are reaped from it earlier than from any other in the parish. The stipend is about L. 80 sterling, with a glebe of 6 acres. Col. Eidingtoun, the proprietor of the estate of Gargunnock, is the patron.

Parish School.—The school-house is situated on a rising ground, at the west end of the village. It has two floors, the first for the school, the second for the habitation of the school-master. During the winter season, there may be 50 or 60 scholars; and yet the whole income, including salary, perquisites as Session-clerk, and school fees, scarcely amounts annually to L. 16. The reading of English is taught for a merk Scots per quarter, writing and arithmetic for 2 shillings; fees, which are by no means adequate to the troublesome task of the master. When a man decently qualified submits to the drudgery of training up children in several important branches of education, common sense must revolt at the idea

P 2

of

other half became the property of the Kirk Session, to the great mortification of the relations; who certainly deserved this disappointment, as they had taken no notice of the deceased, while she lived.

of his being in a worse situation than the day-labourer. It is hoped something will be done for a better provision to the masters of parish-schools.

Village.—The village, consisting of about 90 houses, chiefly of one floor, and thatched, is situated on the side of a hill, part of the barony of Gargunnock. The military road from Stirling to Dumbarton, passes through it. The best inn upon the road is here, few houses of that kind are kept in such good order. It is kept remarkably clean and neat, a circumstance not very common in houses of the same description.

Each inhabitant has a small garden. The one half of the property belonging to the village was fued out about fifty years ago, at the rate of 20 shillings sterling per acre, the other half at a later period was fued at 40s. There is no kind of trade or manufacture in the village; not even a grocery shop that deserves the name. Supplies of all the necessary articles are got from Stirling weekly, or by carriers from Edinburgh or Glasgow. There are some weavers, taylor, and shoemakers, and the other inhabitants are chiefly day labourers.

Much inconvenience arose from the want of a surgeon, but this is now removed. Dr. Moir of Leckie the first heritor, and a gentleman of great eminence in his profession, is ever ready to give his advice and assistance to the villagers without a fee. There is no writer or attorney among them. When any dispute arises, which is very seldom, it is either settled by the Minister, or by Mr Graham of Micklewood, a justice of the peace, in whose judgement parties acquiesce.

Antiquities.—A little southward of the village, there is a conical height called the Kier-hill, which is evidently artificial, and seems to have been a military work. There are remains

mains of a ditch or rampart of a circular form, which proves that it is not of Roman origin. It is probably of later date, and appears to have been the place from which Sir William Wallace sallied forth on the night when he took by surprize the Peel of Gargunnock.

In one of the dryfields of Boquhan, some pieces of brass armour and points of spears were found a few years ago by a tenant, when digging for limestone. A great quantity of human bones were also discovered in the same spot, the remains probably of the slain at the battle of Ballochleam, which was fought in the adjoining fields.

There is no object of natural curiosity in this parish equal to the glen of Boquhan. The road made on the east side by the present proprietor, leads to a most romantic view. But, if a person has leisure and perseverance to descend and walk along the bottom of the glen, at the field of Old-hall, he will be surprized at every step, with a scene perfectly wild, as though nature were in ruins.

Local Disadvantages.—This parish is situated on the north side of the hill. In the higher parts of the dryfields, the sun is not seen during the winter months. Coal must be brought from Bannockburn, 10 miles distant; for although marks of coal can be observed in several places within the parish, no attempts have been made to discover it. The tenants on the banks of the Forth have boats, but these in their present state are found inconvenient and dangerous for horses and loaded carts. A bridge is much wanted near the lands of Micklewood. The one at the ford of the Frew, does not sufficiently accommodate the inhabitants of a tract of fertile country, for many miles on both sides of the river.

Roads.

Roads.—The military road from Stirling to Dumbarton, made betwixt 30 and 40 years ago, and which passes through the centre of this parish, is now by Act of Parliament to have a new line of direction, and to be made a turnpike road. It is hoped the trustees will confine the exercise of their power to what is immediately useful and necessary. Any alterations in order to avoid heights, or to lessen the distance, where that can be conveniently done, would be readily submitted to by all, from the evident advantage resulting from them. But, if new lines of considerable length are proposed, where the grounds must be purchased and re-inclosed; or, if the road shall be so formed as to render plantations and improvements useless, which have been carrying on for years in the faith that the present line of road was to be permanent; if it shall be so directed, as to abandon a number of thriving villages, or so unnecessarily widened as to break in upon many beautiful strips of planting, by which means a debt must be incurred that can only be repaid by a heavy toll on the grain, the coal and the lime, it is doubtful, whether the good or the evil of such alterations would preponderate. The trustees have no interest but to act for the general advantage of the country, and there is no reason to doubt that this will be the object of their chief attention.

Game, &c.—In this parish there are the heath-fowl, hares, and partridges.

The commencement of partridge shooting, as early as the beginning of September, is very often a cause of their scarcity, as the tenants are tempted to destroy the eggs for the sake of the crops, which are sometimes much injured by the sportsmen and dogs.

The cleft of Ballochleam is still remarkable for the hawks,

for

for which it was in great request in former times, when falconry was in fashion.

A crow perfectly white, was found last spring on a tree at Boquhan.

The farmer suffers a real loss by flocks of pigeons which cover his fields in seed time, and make frequent visits to his wheat before it is cut down; and thinks a tax on pigeon houses would be a wise measure.

Diseases.—Rheumatism, fevers, consumptions, are the chief disorders of the more aged inhabitants, and the small-pox, the measles, and hooping cough, of the young. Not a few are afflicted with the scrophula, but the people have little conception of its effects on their posterity. There is still an unlucky prejudice against inoculating for the small-pox, while the people have a strong inclination to frequent the house where the disease exists, not perceiving, that by doing so they communicate the infection to their children as effectually, and a thousand times more fatally than by the lancet. Dr. Moir inoculates gratis, and has had considerable influence in reconciling the common people to a practice, which God in his providence hath remarkably blessed for the preservation of the human race.

It is difficult to determine whether the carse or the dryfield, be most favourable to health. Some have lived to a great age in both; but it is certain, that as the tenants of the carse have the greatest share of labour, so they seem most capable of enduring it; and if a greater degree of labour supported with vigour indicates health, or promotes it, it may be conjectured, that the carse is fully as healthful as the dryfield. It would perhaps be of advantage, if those who are most exposed to fatigue, to cold, or to moisture, would use a cotton, instead of a linen shirt. It might contribute to prevent
those

those rheumatic complaints, to which they are so often subject.

Price of labour, wages, &c.—A few years ago, a man servant for the farm, who lived with the farmer, could have been found for 5 or 6 pounds sterling per year, but now L. 10 or 12 are given. Women servants who lately were engaged at L. 2 10s. are now scarcely satisfied with L. 4. Their purse is just as empty as before, but there is a material change in the article of dress. The day labourer who once wrought at six-pence or eight-pence per day, now receives a shilling, and in seed time and harvest, his victuals besides. Last harvest, 1794, the wages rose to sixteen and eighteen-pence per day, besides victuals, which is by far the highest rate of wages remembered in this country.

The day-wage-men for the whole parish reside in the village. They are called forth to their labour in the morning, by the sound of pipe or drum, and have the same signal when they retire in the evening. They are a sober industrious contented set of men, and though their food be simple, and their dress and dwellings mean, it is believed that they have more real enjoyment, than those who are in the more elevated situations.

Food and dress.—The aged inhabitants are surprized at the change in the article of living, and what is evidently a proof of the wealth of the country, is unreasonably the subject of their lamentation. It is seldom that any of them live beyond their income. The other extreme ought also to be avoided. More is expected than the poorest fare, and the meanest dress from men of opulence. When the farmer is only careful how he may lend his money, and add to his stock, and lives at home as penuriously as when he had nothing, he denies himself

himself the proper use of the bounty of Providence, and is really poor in the midst of his prosperity. There are few such in this parish. They all assemble at church, clean, and in decent attire; many of the women in black cloaks and bonnets, and the younger sort adorned with ribbons. It gives general disgust, however, when the dress is unsuitable to the station. There is sometimes a contention for pre-eminence in gaudy shew, which is severely censured, especially when the maid servant cannot be distinguished from the mistress.

All the men, with a very few exceptions, wear hats, and what may be thought remarkable, there is only one wig in the whole parish. Tea is universally used. Even the poorest families have it occasionally, and the last cup is qualified with a little whisky, which is supposed to correct all the bad effects of the tea. There are few families without some butcher meat laid up for the winter. All agree, that they are better clothed and fed than their forefathers; and seem contented with the lot assigned them.

Price of Provisions.—Oat meal is from 15s. to 17s. Sterling per boll; peas and barley meal about 10s. do; potatoes, corn measure, 5s. do; butter 12s per stone; common cheese 4s, and a better kind made on Saturday's evening 5s. 6d. per stone; poultry at a reasonable price. A good fowl may be got for 1s sterling; eggs at 4d. per dozen. The price of necessaries in this parish varies according to the demand at Stirling on the market days.

Great scarcity was apprehended in 1783, through the failure of the preceding crop; but upon the return of peace, a large quantity of white peas being commissioned from England by a man of public spirit, and grinded into meal, assisted the other expedients which were then adopted to prevent a famine in this part of the kingdom.

Character, Manners, and Customs.—The character of the inhabitants of the parish is sobriety. They profess to fear God, and honour the king. In their deportment they are grave, and in their speech considerate. They are remarkably attached to the institutions of religion, and all of them, (22 persons excepted), worship together at the parish church. During the late attempts of designing men to throw the country into confusion, not an individual in this parish joined the clubs of pretended reformers, or shewed the least disaffection to our happy constitution. The only reform they wish, is in their own persons and families, where they acknowledge there are many things which need to be corrected; but they leave affairs of state to those who are lawfully appointed to govern. There has been no one here charged with any capital crime, for a long course of years. The minister's garden is situated near the high road, and might be easily plundered, and yet he cannot say that he has been robbed of a single apple, since he came to the parish, upwards of 7 years ago. There is very seldom occasion for church discipline; no cause has been carried from the session to the presbytery for many years.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed twice in every year. And as there is no stated allowance to defray the expence of the communion in winter, the parishioners chearfully contribute for this purpose.

Young and old are distinguished for polite attention to strangers. Men of superior rank have a respectful bow from every one they meet; for people here have not been taught the new doctrine of liberty and equality.

It is seldom there are social meetings. Marriages, baptisms, funerals, and the conclusion of the harvest, are almost the only occasions of feasting. At these times, there is much unnecessary expence. Marriages usually happen

in April and November. The month of May is cautiously avoided. A principal tenant's son or daughter has a croud of attendants at marriage, and the entertainment lasts for two days at the expence of the parties. The company at large pay for the music.

The manner of conducting funerals in the country needs much amendment. From the death to the interment, the house is thronged by night and day, and the conversation is often very unsuitable to the occasion. The whole parish is invited at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the day of the funeral, but it is soon enough to attend at 3 o'clock afternoon. Every one is entertained with a variety of meats and drinks. Not a few return to the dirge, and sometimes forget what they have been doing, and where they are. Attempts have been lately made to provide a remedy for this evil; but old customs are not easily abolished.

The dregs of superstition are still to be found. The less informed suspect something like witchcraft about poor old women; and are afraid of their evil eye among the cattle. If a cow is suddenly taken ill, it is ascribed to some extraordinary cause. If a person, when called to see one, does not say, "I wish her luck," there would be a suspicion he had some bad design. It is but just to say, that the generality of the people are superior to these vulgar prejudices, though the traces of them are still to be found.

There is one prevailing custom among our country people; which is sometimes productive of much evil. Every thing is bought and sold over a bottle. The people who go to the fair, in the full possession of their faculties, do not always transact their business, or return to their homes, in the same state.

It is but justice, however, to say, that a disposition to virtue,

tue, industry, loyalty and peace, characterizes the inhabitants of the parish of Gargunnock.

Valuation.—The valuation of the whole parish is L. 4127: 15: 2. Scottish money; but the real rental is above L. 3000 sterling. About 30 years ago, it was only the half of that sum. There is now an increase at every term. No farm is now let without an additional rent. Applications are made for the farm, long before the lease expires. The separate estates, which comprehend the whole parish, are Leckie and Kepdarroch, Boquhan, Gargunnock, Micklewood, Redhall, and Culmore.

NUMBER

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF ALVA.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN DUNCAN.

Name.

IN the writings of the last century, and before that time, the name of this parish was generally written Alvath, or Alveth; but that mode of spelling has been disused almost a complete century. Whether the present name, Alva, be of Gaelic origin, is not altogether certain. Fanciful etymologies can never yield satisfaction to the judicious antiquary; and therefore when nothing rational can be offered, it seems better to acknowledge ignorance, than to offer what can neither amuse nor inform.

Situation.—This parish and barony is a part of the county of Stirling, although it happens to be totally disjoined from every part of it. No certain account can now be given, how this has happened. It is surrounded by the shire of Clackmannan on the east, south, and west, and on the north, it is bounded by a part of the county of Perth. It extends in length, from east to west, somewhat more than two miles
and

and a half; and from south to north, rather more than four miles. Tillicoultry, is the adjacent parish on the east. The river Devon, which has its source in the barony of Alva, after a long course, at first almost due east; and then southward through Glen-devon, makes a sudden turn westward, near the church of Falloway, and passing through the parishes of Muckhart, Dollar, and Tillicoultry, gently glides along the south boundary of this parish, and divides it from the parishes of Alloa and Clackmannan, which are situated on the south*. The parish of Logie is next adjacent on the west.

Extent, &c.—The lands of Alva extend over a very considerable portion of that long range of hills, distinguished by the name of Ochills; the remaining grounds are extended over part of that valley, which lies between the foot of these hills, and the river Devon. The mean breadth, from the banks of the river to the bottom of the hill, may be about three fifth parts of a mile.

That portion of the Ochills now under review, when seen from the south at the distance of a mile or two, appear to be one continued range, with little variation in height; but as the mountain slopes towards the south, it is intersected by exceedingly deep and narrow glens, through each of which, streams of water run, that discharge themselves into the Devon.

* It is impossible to view this little river of clear water, without admiring its beauty, in its wonderful passage through the rock, at the Rumbling Bridge, and Caldron Lin; and its numberless meandrings, after it descends into the valley, east of Dollar; whence it glides generally in a deep bed with little fall, till it reaches the Frith of Forth, at the Cambas miln, directly opposite to where its source began. When swelled by heavy rains, or the melting snow, it overflows its banks, and covers the greatest part of the low grounds.

von. By means of these, the fore ground of this part of the Ochills, is divided into three separate hills, distinguished by the names of Wood-hill, Middle-hill, and West-hill of Alva. On the brow of this last hill, is a very high perpendicular rock, which, for what reason is not known, has obtained the name of Craig Leith. It has been long beyond memory, remarkable for the residence of that species of hawks, the falcon, which is used for the diversion of hunting. One pair, and only one pair, it is affirmed by the inhabitants of the place, build a nest on the front of this tremendous rock. These are said to hatch their young annually; and, when their progeny are of a proper age, the parents force them to seek a new habitation, till at last, however long they may be supposed to live, the parents themselves must yield their residence to their survivors. In former times, when that sport was in fashion, a hawk of this breed was thought a valuable acquisition. They are still in great request among our own nobility, who love that sport; and very lately, an English gentleman noted for his skill in that diversion, sent his servant all the way from Yorkshire, to procure some of this breed. In order to come at the nest, he was let down by a rope fastened round his waist, while the end of it was held fast by ten or twelve people, who stood at a convenient distance from the edge of the precipice; and he was observed scrambling on the face of the rock, exploring the nest of the bird.

The house of Alva stands on an eminence, projecting from the base of the Wood-hill, and near the east end of the parish. The height of this projected part of the hill, is about 220 feet above the water of Devon, which runs in the valley below. The hill rises immediately behind the house, to the height of 1400 feet, making the whole height

1620 feet *. From the summit of this hill, there is a very extensive prospect to the north east, the south, and south west. The view to the north west, is a little interrupted by the hill of Dalmiot, a part of the Ochills, lying in the parish of Logie. From the top of the Wood-hill, however, the mouth of the Frith of Forth, the Bass, North Berwick Law, with the windings of the Forth, can easily be descried, together with the coasts of Fife and east Lothian, &c.

The village of Alva is situated at a small distance from the bottom of the West hill. A small rivulet, which issues from the glen which separates the West from the Middle hill, runs along the east side of the village; and not only affords a constant and plentiful supply of water, but adds very much to the beauty of the village. This receives a farther addition, from a thriving plantation of forest trees growing on a steep bank on the east side of the rivulet, and affording a comfortable shelter from the north east winds, which, of all others, are the most violent in this district. It is not certainly known, when this village began to be built. There is undoubted evidence, however, of Alva being a parish above 500 years ago †; and it is probable that a village, very inconsiderable perhaps, may then have existed. Even at present the village is not extensive, and does not contain much above 130 families, including a few single persons each of whom occupy a part of a house. About the end of the last, and beginning of this

* The hill continues to rise gradually for about two miles farther north, until it reaches the top of Ben-Cloch, which is the highest point of the Alva hills, and the summit of all the Ochills; and according to the observation taken by Mr Udney, land surveyor, is about 2420 feet above the level of the Devon. The view from the top of Ben-Cloch is the most extensive and beautiful any where to be found, and is visited by all travellers of curiosity who delight in fine prospects.

† Vide Chartulary of Cambuskenneth.

this century, the late Sir John Erskine, grandfather of the present Sir James Sinclair Erskine, then proprietor, granted feus of a small parcel of ground to several inhabitants, on which they built a cottage and formed a garden; and a plan appears to have been designed by that gentleman, of building a village in the form of a square, two sides of which have been actually built. The other houses appear to have been set down, without any regular order, and where a convenient spot for a garden could be obtained. About the year 1767, the present Lord Alva, resolving to enlarge the village, granted feus to such as were willing to build; in consequence of which, one complete row, consisting of about 20 houses, was erected in one season, each house having a small garden of a few falls, equal in breadth to the extent of the front of the house. A few years after, another row of houses parallel to the former, and with gardens laid out in the same manner, was completed. The rate at which the ground was at that time feued, was at first 13s. and 4d. per fall, or 36 square yards, it advanced by degrees to 15s. and 16s. per fall, as the premium or purchase money, together with four-pence the fall of annual feu duty. Taking the medium rate of 15s. it will be found to amount to L. 120 sterling per acre as the price of the ground, and L. 2 : 13 : 4 as the annual rent to the superior. What proprietor would hesitate to grant feus upon such terms as these; especially, when it is considered, that the annual duty may be converted into some staple commodity.

The arable soil of this parish may be properly divided into four different kinds. The first, which extends southward from the bottom of the hills, consists of a rich hazel mold intermixed with gravel and small stones; this is succeeded by a different kind of soil, being a stratum of moss over a bed of clay, and extending from 50 to 100 yards in breadth. In some places, this moss is found to be 7 feet in depth. Next

to that, is a strong rich clay, extending a considerable way towards the river Devon; then follows what is called haughing ground, such as is usually found upon the banks of rivers; the banks of Devon being generally overflowed twice or thrice every year, great quantities of sand are left on the ground as far as the inundation extends. The soil at the bed of the river appears to be in many places above 20 feet deep. The grounds of this parish produce the usual crops of wheat, barley, peas, beans, oats, clover, and potatoes.

The whole arable grounds within the parish, have been inclosed, several years ago, with ditches and hedges. Those fields, which lie immediately below the house of Alva, at the bottom of the Wood-hill, and extending near to the banks of Devon, were inclosed, and planted with rows of oaks, ashes, and other forest trees, by the late Sir John Erskine, about 70 years ago, and were probably among the first inclosures in this part of the country. These have been chiefly in grass for a great many years, and are let annually to graziers, at the rate of from 25 to 30 shillings per acre. The general state of agriculture, in this, as well as in all the neighbouring parishes, was very rude and wretched, till within the last thirty years. And although the soil must be allowed to be equal at least, in quality, to that in the most fertile parts of Scotland; yet truth requires us to acknowledge, that those who were employed in cultivating it, were late in arriving at any considerable improvements. Wheat, justly esteemed the most beneficial of all crops, was not cultivated in this parish, till within the last fifteen years. Clean summer fallow, and proper dressing with lime and dung, were rarely, if ever attempted. Good example has at last opened mens eyes; and experience has demonstrated that the soil, when properly cultivated, is capable of the highest improvement, and is fit for producing wheat, and all the strongest

est grain. The tenants begin now to perceive the importance of fallowing, liming, and cleaning their lands, to obtain good returns, and the advantage of having broad clover for summer food for their horses, and being able to work them constantly, instead of sending them (as they did formerly), to graze for five months idle on the hills, at a considerable expence. Any person who has been acquainted with the state of farming in this parish and its immediate neighbourhood thirty years ago, must have been led to ascribe the slow progress of improvement, in a considerable degree, to the very small number of acres, of which the far greater part of the farms consisted. The stock of the farmer, may be considered, as in general, proportioned to the extent of his farm, which at that time did not commonly exceed thirty or forty acres. It was well, if, according to the mode of culture practised at that time, he could pay his rent, and provide a mean subsistence for himself and his family. Another circumstance, which affected in a very particular manner the state of farming in this parish, and its neighbourhood, was the practice of driving coals from the coal pits on the south banks of Devon, to the shore of Alloa. To this labour, the farmers on the estates where the coals were raised, were bound by their leases; and without entering more particularly into the subject, it must be obvious, how pernicious the effect of this practice must have been, with respect to the proper and necessary operations upon the farm. Such, however, is the contagion of example, that some of the farmers in this parish, who were under no obligation to be carriers on the estate of another proprietor, and excepting during one very short period, when coal was worked within the parish, had no occasion to be concerned in it, from ignorance and unskilfulness respecting their proper employment, and from the desire of a little gain, earned at the expence of severe labour to themselves and horses, with the *tear and wear* of

carts, rude and simple as they were at that time, were foolish enough to join the farmers in their neighbourhood, and employ themselves during a considerable part of the summer, in carrying the great coal to the port of Alloa. They were at last however, wisely prohibited by Lord Alva, the late proprietor of this barony, from following this absurd and unprofitable occupation; indeed when they began to acquire a taste for improving their farms, and to reap the benefit of their improvements, they were soon convinced of the inutility of their ancient practice; and very probably would have abandoned it of their own accord. The extent of the farms has been, within the last twenty years, considerably enlarged; the consequence of which has been, that besides imitating the example of the gradual improvements in agriculture, the farmer has been enabled to make a more respectable appearance than formerly. It is evident from the writings of those, who have treated of the subject of agriculture, that it has been considered as a difficult problem, to state the just and reasonable extent of a farm, or to fix the number of acres, that one farm should contain; and from the different opinions which have been given, it may be inferred, that perhaps no general rule can be laid down. A general observation however, may be offered; that the farm should at least be so extensive, that the profits of the stock employed in cultivating it, should enable the farmer to live decently and comfortably, and in a manner above the other country tradesmen who surround him. In a small farm of 40, or even 50 acres, allowing it to be as productive as can be supposed, and the rent moderate; still the profits arising to the farmer, cannot possibly be so great, as to raise his state much above that of the lower class of manufacturers, who inhabit country parishes. According to the division of farms that has hitherto taken place in this parish, which has been from 30 to 60, or not more than 70
acres,

acres, they can hardly be deemed so large, as to place the farmer in a respectable situation.

From the description already given of the situation of the lands of this parish, they are naturally divided into arable and pasture ground. The three hills are incomparably the most beautiful in every respect of the whole range of the Ochills, from Glen-devon on the east, to their termination, near the bridge of Alloa on the west. They are cloathed with the richest verdure, at all seasons, and produce grafs of the finest quality, and in the greatest variety. They are not so steep, so rugged or inaccessible, as those immediately westward in the parish of Logie; and they present a more regular, nobler, and bolder aspect, than any of those that lie immediately on the east. They have been now for many years, divided into two separate farms, for sheep; one comprehending the West-hill, the other the Middle-hill, together with that part of the Wood-hill, which lies behind the fence, or wall, that surrounds the brow of that part of the hill, immediately above the house of Alva. 'Tis supposed that the former of these is capable of maintaining about 100 score of sheep, and the latter from 90 to 95 score. The rent of the West-hill, has been greatly increased, since the year 1759*. On the highest and back-lying ground, where the parish of Alva marches with an estate belonging to Mr Murray of Abercairney, in the parish

* The rent of the West-hill in the year 1759, was very inconsiderable. There was then little demand for butcher-meat in this country; and the profits of grazing were very low. When the next lease was granted in 1775, when the demand for sheep and wool began to increase, the tenant was taken bound to pay more than twice the former rent. From the rapid progress of manufactures and of luxury, and from the high character of the wool and of the sheep fed on the Alva hills, it is believed that those fine sheep-farms are still capable of a considerable advance of rent.

parish of Blackford, the soil is mossy, and produces heath in great abundance, together with a strong and coarse grass. This however is resorted to by the stronger and older part of the flocks; and these, 'tis said by the shepherds, are seldom observed to quit their wild retreat, or to come forward in quest of the tender and more kindly grass, excepting perhaps when compelled by the rigour of the storm, to seek shelter on the fore ground, or lower part of the hills. At the same time, it must be remarked, that snow never lies for any length of time, on the face of those hills*. It is remarkable however, that at the bottom of a ridge of rock, near to the summit of the high hill called Ben-cloch, where it is sheltered from every wind, snow is frequently seen lying till the month of June. What is observed to resist so long the summer's heat, from the singularity of its extended but narrow form to the spectator's eye who views it at a distance, has received the appellation of Lady Alva's web.

It has never been the practice of the sheep-farmers here, to breed young sheep on these hills. Although they have generally a few scores of ewes on their farms; yet their lambs are commonly sold to the butcher. Of late years indeed, some attempts have been made to rear a few young sheep, but these bear no proportion to the number of their stock. The farmers go every year about mid-summer, to the markets at

* Snow seldom lies here more than two or three days; and even during that time, the sheep brouze on the young furze, and are in as good condition, as if they had been fed on hay. The flocks have so much shelter from the situation of the hills, and from the plantations, that they have never materially suffered from the heaviest falls of snow. In January 1794, so fatal to the sheep and cattle in the southern parts of Scotland, and in the north of England, the farmers in the hills of Alva were so fortunate as scarcely to lose a sheep.

at Linton, and purchase sheep of a year old. These, according to the custom of the sheep-farmers in the south, have been smeared with tar, but that practice is not found necessary in this district. After they have been shorn three times white, as they express it, they are sold about August and September, as fit for the butcher's use.

The next thing that is worthy of notice in this parish, is the state of the woollen manufactures. These have been carried on in the village of Alva, for more than a century at least. They consist chiefly of Scots blankets and serges. The former are made from 9d. to 1s. the Scots yard, and the latter from 10d. to 15d. and a few from 16d. to 18d. per yard. It is more than probable, that this species of manufacture had flourished a great many years ago, in the neighbouring village of Tillicoultry; as an evidence of this, it is at this day, known among the shopkeepers of the Lawnmarket of Edinburgh, by the name of Tillicoultry serges. The number of looms constantly employed at present in this village is 67. The length of each web may be reckoned at 80 yards, and taking the average value at 10d. or 11d. per yard, the gross produce will amount to from L. 7000 to L. 8000 ster. annually. The manufacturers make use chiefly of English wool in their serges and blankets, and this partly short, and partly combed wool. That which is produced from the sheep that pasture on the Ochills, is commonly manufactured by the people of the country for their own private use. A very considerable sum is annually expended by the weavers in this place, in purchasing wool, which it is impossible to ascertain with any degree of precision. These serges are sold not only in Edinburgh, but likewise in Stirling, Glasgow, Greenock, Perth, and Dundee. The finest kinds of serges are sometimes dressed and dyed by the traders in Stirling, and sold as
coarse

coarse shalloons. A considerable quantity of the coarser sizes, have of late years been purchased by sadlers as a necessary article in their business. This trade is at present in a very flourishing condition, and from this circumstance the manufactures here, are able to pay 50s. rent for an acre of land, and many of them 40s. for a cow's grafs. It were to be wished, perhaps, that a species of manufacture more valuable and more extensively useful were introduced, such as an imitation of the flannels manufactured in England. But it has always been found exceedingly difficult to give a new direction to habits long established and confirmed; and until some person possessed of an enterprising spirit together with a considerable stock shall arise, an alteration of the present mode of carrying on the manufactures here, cannot reasonably be expected.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this parish, from a late accurate survey, is found to be 612. And of these, there are

From 10 years of age and under	165
— 10 to 20	132
— 20 to 30	84
— 30 to 40	94
— 40 to 50	52
— 50 to 60	52
— 60 to 70	27
— 70 to 80	4
— 80 & 90	2
	612

List

List of Births and Burials from 1720 to 1791.

From the beginning of 1720 to the end of 1729	Marriages	Births.			Burials.				
		Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Adults	Children
From the beginning of 1720 to the end of 1729	45	113	122	235	28	29	57	34	23
—1730 to 1739	46	93	88	181	81	75	156	99	87
—1740 to 1749	33	47	80	147	68	98	166	110	56
—1750 to 1759	46	87	88	175	58	43	101	66	35
—1760 to 1769	64	103	113	216	81	99	180	101	79
—1770 to 1779	53	122	109	231	72	76	148	94	54
—1780 to 1791	70	144	142	286	127	115	242	119	123

The numbers of this parish have not increased in any considerable degree since the year 1760, as appears from lists regularly made up every four or five years from that period.

Church, Stipend, &c.—The parish of Alva was, long before the Reformation, in the diocese of Dunkeld, and under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the bishop of that see. From an extract taken from the Chartulary of Cambuskenneth, in the neighbourhood of Stirling, it appears that the church of Alva was a menial church, as it is called, belonging to that abbacy, and that the monks performed duty there, from the want of a sufficient fund for the maintenance of a regular clergyman to reside in the parish. In the 1260, Richard, Bishop of Dunkeld, made a donation to the monks of the church of St. Mary at Cambuskenneth, of the church of Alva “with all its legal pertinents,” and dispensing with their employing a vicar to officiate statedly. The following reason is then assigned; “virorum religioforum abbas et conventus de Cambuskenneth, paupertati compati-
tientes, — charitatis intuitu, et propter tenuitatem ecclesie de Alveth.” By another extract from the same Chartulary, it appears that Alexander, styled Dominus de Striveling, Miles, made a grant of one acre of land, to God, the

Virgin Mary, to St. Servanus, and to the church of St. Servanus de Alveth, describing it particularly as lying near the well of St. Servanus, “et inter ipsum fontem et ecclesiam.” This charter is dated, A. D. 1276. This well is still within the limits of the minister’s glebe, and although its consecrated name has been long forgotten, it continues to send forth a copious stream of the purest and sweetest water. About 20 years after the Reformation, and after Stirling, with a few parishes around it, were provided with stated pastors, the Presbytery of Stirling was erected on the eight day of August 1581 *, in consequence of an order from the General Assembly, to that effect. The first minister of this parish, was Mr Robert Mainteith, who was afterwards deposed for incapacity.

Pudet hac opprobria nobis,

Et dici potuisse, et non potuisse, refelli.

From this time and downwards to the year 1632, this parish appears to have been united with the neighbouring one of Tillicoultry, the minister of Alva officiating in both; the livings of each hardly affording a decent subsistence; the stipend of Alva not exceeding 300 merks Scots, or L. 16:13:4 sterling. The fabric of the present church was built in the year 1631, by Alexander Bruce, then proprietor of Alva; who, after making a small addition to the stipend, procured a disjunction from the parish of Tillicoultry. Although the fabric of the church is still good and sound, yet it appears never to have been completely finished within; the walls and roof are not plaistered, and the seats are in a very ruinous condition. The windows are too small and ill-placed. As the structure is sufficient, it might be repaired at a moderate expence; and, without any enlargement of the area, might be rendered

* Records of the Presbytery of Stirling.

rendered a very commodious and elegant church. The present manse, was built in the year 1762, upon a very neat and commodious plan. In the year 1765, the present Lord Alva, then proprietor of this barony, sensible of the smallness of the living, very generously, and without any application from the incumbent, gave an augmentation in victual to the amount of L. 22 sterling, at the usual conversion; by which means the stipend now consists of L. 34 sterling in money, including the allowance for communion elements, together with 40 bolls of barley, and 32 bolls of meal. But what especially deserves to be remembered by the present incumbent, to whom this augmentation was given, is, that Lord Alva, not only of his own accord resolved to give it, but actually executed a summons against himself, as sole heritor of the parish, in name of the minister without his knowledge, as the first step towards perfecting, what he had so generously resolved on. The glebe consists of nine acres, a small part of which is meadow, and which, if completely drained, might be very beneficial. Had Virgil himself visited the Ochills, and composed his first pastoral on this spot, he could not have described it more graphically than he has done in the following lines;

*Et tibi magna satis : quamvis lapis omnia nudus,
Limosque palus obducat pascua junco.*

Let no future possessor of this glebe dare to murmur, after what Maro has so sweetly sung !

School.—The salary of the schoolmaster is 200 merks, or L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ sterling. This is the maximum appointed by law for the salary of a parish school. When it is considered, that by act of parliament *, the heritors and liferenters of a parish, are

* Vide Acts W. and M. Par. 1. Sess. 6. Chap. 26.

are allowed to obtain relief for the one half of that sum from the tenants, it may be justly wondered, that so very few country parishes have availed themselves of it, and still allow their schoolmasters to be so meanly provided. To this good and wise institution of parochial schools, and to the assiduous labours of that most useful class of men, our country stands indebted for its celebrity in learning and science.

Poor.—The poor in this parish are not numerous. At present there are not more than six persons, who receive relief from the public charity. Occasional supply is at times given to others, as their necessities demand. They have hitherto been maintained by the ordinary collections, together with the interest arising from a small fund, and the common dues of the parish mort-cloths; without any assessment upon the heritor, or inhabitants. There are examples, more than one, of persons, who have declined accepting this charity, choosing rather to sustain their hardships with patience, than to receive it from the public. This serves to confirm the remark, that when the funds of public charity are increased to any great degree, there is generally less delicacy in receiving it.

Minerals.—This parish has been distinguished by the discoveries which have been made, in this part of the Ochills, of various metals, and particularly of silver. In the neighbouring parishes of Logie on the west, and Tillicoultry and Dollar on the east, veins of copper and lead have been, at different periods, wrought to a considerable extent; and though veins of these metals, and also of iron ore, have been found in the hills of Alva, yet no experiments of such consequence have been made, as to ascertain their true value. Some time between the years 1710 and 1715, Sir John Erskine, of whom mention has been already made, by means of some miners from
Leadhills,

Leadhills, discovered a very valuable vein of silver, in the glen that separates the Middle-hill from the Wood-hill. It made its first appearance in small strings of silver ore, which being followed, led to a very large mass of that precious ore; part of this had the appearance of malleable silver, and was found upon trial to be so exceedingly rich, as to produce 12 ounces of silver from 14 ounces of ore. A sum not greater than L. 40, or, at the most L. 50, had been expended when this valuable discovery was made. During the space of thirteen or fourteen weeks, it has been credibly affirmed that ore was produced to about the value of L. 4000 *per* week, and it has been conjectured, that Sir John drew from L. 40,000 to L. 50,000, besides much ore, which was supposed to have been purloined by the workmen. When this was exhausted, the silver ore began to appear in smaller quantities; and symptoms of lead, with other metals, were discovered. The consequence of which was, that all further researches were at that time laid aside. There are still in the possession of Lord Alva, Nephew of the late Sir John Erskine, some exceedingly rich pieces of silver ore, which had been got at that time, and which evidently shew how very valuable that mass of ore must have been*.

These have been examined by many of Lord Alva's friends, who have admired, not merely the richness of the ore, but its beauty; the pure *native virgin* silver being observed to adhere in slender strings to the spar, in a variety of fanciful and irregular forms.

About

* In the year 1767, Lord Alva, of some of the remains of that ore in his possession, caused a pair of Communion Cups to be made, for the use of the Church of Alva; on these, the following inscription is engraved. *Sacris, in Ecclesia, S. Servani, apud Alveth, A. D. 1767, ex argento indigena, D. D. C. q.—JACOBUS ERSKINE.*

About the year 1759, the late Charles Erskine, Lord Justice Clerk, father of Lord Alva, having a few years before, purchased this barony from his nephew, the late Sir Henry Erskine, revived the working of the silver mines in this place. A company consisting of some gentlemen, kinsmen and friends of the family, was formed, and a moderate capital subscribed. These carried on the work, with considerable industry; they pursued the course of the vein, where the silver ore had been found, a very great way beyond the old workings, which had for many years been abandoned. Their success, it must be regretted, was not in proportion to the vigour of their exertions; for although the appearances in the vein were favourable, and small strings of metal sometimes discovered, these however were not followed by any thing of sufficient importance, to encourage them to continue their researches.

A shaft or sump, as the miners term it, was made to the depth of several fathoms, immediately below the bottom of the waste, from whence the rich mass of ore, above-mentioned, had been taken, and a drift carried on, in the direction of the silver vein, upon that level; but neither did this attempt answer the expectation which had been formed of its success. To facilitate these operations however, it had been resolved, to drive a level at a considerable distance, nearer the bottom of the hill; for the purpose of draining the water from the works above. In executing this part of their scheme, they had not advanced a great way into the side of the hill, when a large mass of ore was discovered; at first, this was imagined to be silver; but upon an accurate trial, made by a gentleman, distinguished for his chemical knowledge, it was discovered to be cobalt. A very considerable quantity of this was brought out, of which a great part was used in a manufacture of porcelain, that had been erected much about that time.

time, at Prestonpans in East-Lothian. When the cobalt is deprived of the arsenic with which it is strongly impregnated, and in other respects properly prepared, it produces a powder of a beautiful deep blue, and with this, a great variety both of useful and ornamental pieces of china and glass were coloured; which clearly shewed that the cobalt found in the mines of Alva, was in no respect inferior in quality to that procured from the mines in Saxony. In consequence of this discovery, the appearances of cobalt being now fully known, very considerable quantities of it were discovered among the heaps of rubbish, that had been taken out of the mines, at the time when they were worked by the late Sir John Erskine. This had remained undisturbed, for about fifty years; when Lord Alva caused a great part of it to be washed, after the manner practised by miners; and obtained an additional quantity to that which had been already procured from the level. The work was carried on a great length from the place where the mass of cobalt had been found; but spar and other vein-stuff appearing, the further working of the mines in this place was totally abandoned.

During the time that these works were carried on, a very accurate survey of all the different veins of metals that had been discovered in the hills of this parish, was made by the agent for the company, who possessed a very considerable degree of skill in the practical part of mining. The several appearances and specimens of the different ores, which were found in consequence of the trials which were made in the veins; together with the precise direction which these take into the hills, with a variety of circumstances relating to them, which it would be improper to enumerate here, were all accurately taken down by their agent, in a register or journal, and which is in the possession of Mr Johnstone, the present proprietor of this barony. It is especially worthy of being remarked, that the person

son employed to make this survey, and to digest the observations resulting from it, was particularly distinguished for his integrity; and therefore the accounts of the mines, contained in the register now mentioned, may with safety be relied on, as just and accurate, and strictly corresponding to appearances, as he had not the smallest tendency to exaggerate his descriptions. Although an extensive knowledge of this subject is altogether disclaimed, yet there is one observation, which presents itself so frequently to any, even the most careless, inquirer, that it may be fairly hazarded: That, were new trials to be made, nearer the surface of the veins than those made formerly, there is a probability of their being more successful; as, in some of those veins, masses of rich and beautiful spar attract the notice of the hasty traveller, and seem to invite him to examine them with some degree of attention. This is happily confirmed, by the result of those experiments, an account of which has already been given, which were undeniably more successful than any of those that since that time have been made. It appears from those registers of the mines, that there are not fewer than fourteen or fifteen veins discovered in the hills of Alva, which, from the trials made, are found to contain specimens of silver, lead, copper, iron, and cobalt.

On the south side of the water of Devon, immediately opposite to the lands of Alva, in the estate belonging to Lord Cathcart and Mr Erskine of Mar, it is well known that the finest coal in all this country is produced. It has now been worked during a long period of years, and has always been held in the highest estimation, on account of its superior quality. The same seams of coal have been found on the north banks of that river, in the estate of Alva, and extend from one extremity of the parish to the other. It was worked by the late Sir John Erskine, about sixty years ago, and a considerable quantity of coal was then brought out. The pits and other

ther vestiges of his works, are still to be seen. And so noble a spirit of enterprise did that gentleman possess, that he cut a canal, a considerable way along the banks of Devon, in order to convey his coal to the banks of the Forth, to be exported from thence to a proper market. The remains of this canal can easily be traced. More than twenty years ago, accurate surveys, of the different levels of the water of Devon, were taken as high up as the parish of Dollar, with a view to facilitate the transporting of coal, belonging to the different proprietors on the banks of the river, by means of a canal intended to have been made where it should have been requisite; as, in many places, the current of the river is so smooth and gentle, as to render one entire canal altogether unnecessary. Although this project was laid aside, yet in some future period it may perhaps be resumed. It is highly probable, that the present proprietor of this parish, will judge it proper to begin without delay to work the coal upon his estate, for this good reason, that the demand for that article is daily increasing; and there is every prospect that it will continue to increase, in consequence of the prodigious consumption of Lord Cathcart's coal, by an iron work, lately erected on that Nobleman's estate, near the banks of Devon. No part of it is now sold for the use of the country.

In a description of this kind, it would be inexcusable to omit taking notice of the beautiful plantations of trees, which surround the house of Alva; which are planted in the hedge rows of the several inclosures, and on the brow of that eminence, on which the house stands. On this, there is a small forest, consisting of many different kinds of trees, such as oaks, elms, ashes, beeches, larches, and pines of different sorts. Many of these, the oaks in particular, seem to be of considerable

rable age. Some of the ashes too, are remarkable on account of their size; and one oak, justly claims the appellation of the "Monarch," of *this* wood, not in respect of its age, but on account of the tallness and straightness of its trunk, and of the regularity with which its boughs are extended on every side. It is extremely probable, that this little forest had been at first planted by the hand of some former proprietor; but far beyond the reach of memory. Most of the trees, which surround the inclosures below the house, were planted by the late Sir John Erskine, and as is supposed, some time before the year 1720. The east and west sides of the hill, immediately above the house, were planted by Lord Alva, more than 20 years ago, to which very large additions have been made every year, by Mr Johnstone, since he became proprietor. It is computed, that not less than 98 acres of this hill, are planted with trees of various sorts; and that the policy, as it is called, and the plantations around the house, extend to fifty acres. The road from the house to the church, which is little less than a measured mile, has a row of trees on every side, which renders it a very pleasant and delightful walk. It is worthy of observation, that the trees on this estate, have this remarkable property of being exceedingly clean and pure, in the skin or bark; and that few or none of those mossy excrescencies, are to be found on the bodies of the trees here, which are usually seen adhering to trees that grow in low and swampy grounds; which is an evidence not only of a dry and pure atmosphere, but also of the happy quality of the soil for raising trees. 'Tis believed, that the same observation will hold true with regard to the trees that grow on the same range of hills, having the same exposure, and very probably, the soil nearly of the same quality; while at the same time, it is but fair to remark, that

2

few,

few, if any, of the trees, either in the parishes on the east or west, are equal either in age or size, to the trees of this parish.

Few situations afford more ample scope for the display of elegance and taste, in the way of rural ornament, than this place presents. Nature is seen here in some of her grandest, as well as most pleasing forms; and a correct taste, by lopping off some luxuriances, and bestowing some additional touches, where these are requisite, might contribute greatly to heighten the beauty of the scenery. A rivulet of the purest water, pours along the middle of that glen where the mines were wrought; when obstructed in its course by opposing rocks, it forces its way, and falls in three beautiful cascades; where the ground is soft and flat, it forms a capacious pool; it is shaded on both its banks, with an extensive plantation of thriving timber, and forms a convenient recess for the purpose of bathing. Even Diana herself, with all her attendant nymphs, might here boldly plunge into the cool "translucent wave," and not dread the unhallowed eye of any savage or licentious intruder.

In the east end of the church, a monument, plain, and without ornament, is erected by Lord Alva, in memory of his father, late Lord Justice Clerk. The following Epitaph is inscribed on a marble plate, which, for classic elegance, and purity of stile, is surpassed perhaps by few modern compositions of that kind. It is hoped, that it may not be disagreeable to the few surviving friends of that respectable and truly amiable man, to recognize a character in which they delighted, thus elegantly and justly described by his son.

Parenti optimo,
 Carolo Areskine, Car. Areskine de Alva, equitis, filio,
 Qui,
 Juventute, doctrina plurimum exulta ;
 Ætate provectior,
 In jure respondendo dicundoque
 Feliciter versatus ;
 Senectute serena placidus,
 Summis in Republica muneribus,
 Ad LXXXIII, usque annum,
 Gnaviter expletis.
 Vita honorifica satur,
 In sede tandem avita,
 Ossa juxta paterna,
 Heic lubens quiescit.

Carolo quoque, fratri multum desiderato,
 Familiæ suæ, Patrioque, si fata tulissent,
 Decorum eximio ;

Londini, in ædicula coenobii Lincolnensis,
 Sepulto,

H. M. P. C. JACOBUS ERSKINE,

1763.

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

PARISHES OF DUPLIN & ABERDALGY.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM GARVIE.

THESE parishes, the names of which are said to be Gaelic, were united in the year 1618; since which time, Duplin has been considered only as a part of the parish of Aberdalgy.

River.—Aberdalgy parish is washed on the south by the Earn, a river remarkable for its numerous beautiful windings, and containing, not only perch, pike, very fine whittings, and a great variety of other sea and fresh water trout, but also in several parts of its course, a considerable number of salmon. There is a salmon fishery in this part of the river, but it is of no great value. The salmon are caught, partly in nets, and partly in cruives, and are carried from this to Perth; whence they are exported to London, together with the salmon caught in the Tay.

For some years past, in consequence of a suggestion of Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, the Tay and Earn salmon have been exported fresh, and preserved so well in that state, by means

means of ice and a quick conveyance, that they have been esteemed equal, if not superior to any salmon in the London market. A salmon smack has run from Perth to London in 52 hours.

General Appearance of the Parish.—The ground by the side of the river is so nearly upon the same level, that it is flooded after heavy rains, and high westerly winds; but it soon rises considerably higher. In most places, it gets to its greatest height at the distance of somewhat more than a mile from the river. Soon after it begins to fall again, and continues falling gently, and gradually, till it reaches the parish of Tibbermuir.

Soil.—The soil, in this parish, as in others, is various. By the river's side, it is sandy. On the lower grounds at a little distance, there are several fields of a rich and sharp, and several of a rich clay, soil. On the higher grounds, and on the north side of the parish, the soil which prevails most is a strong deep till.

Air, Diseases.—The inhabitants enjoy the benefit of a healthful air, and are subject to no peculiar diseases. Little more than twenty years ago, the ague was so common and prevalent here, that very few escaped it; but it has not once made its appearance during the last twelve years.

Minerals.—The parish abounds in free-stone; but no other mineral has yet been discovered. Upon one of the farms, there is a mineral spring, the water of which has been lately found very useful in curing the muir-ill in cattle; a distemper,

per, by which the cattle on that farm formerly suffered extremely.

Statistical Table.

Extent of the parish from East to West	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ English miles
from South to North	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Number of English acres in the parish	- 4051 0 0
Acres arable within Duplin parks	- 440 2 33
Acres planted within Duplin parks	- 423 2 5
Acres arable throughout the rest of the parish	2988 2 11
Acres planted throughout the rest of the parish	1062 2 4
Number of Inhabitants	523 — Carpenters - 4
— Males	255 — Smiths 3
— Females	268 — Weavers - 5
— Under 10 years	133 — Taylors 3
— From 10 to 20	131 — Cottagers in the service
— From 20 to 40	144 of the farmers - 21
— From 40 to 60	90 — Day labourers 21
— From 60 to 80	21 — Gardeners - 6
— Above 80	4 — Schoolmaster - 1
— Married couples	71 — Clergyman - 1
— Widowers	6 — Male servants 62
— Widows	14 — Female servants 41
Average of Marriages for 10 years preceding 1792	6 — Dissenters from the established church, with their children 133
— Births	14 — Horses, about - 140
— Deaths	9 — Cows, about - 120
Number of Farmers	14 — Other black cattle, about 300
— Shoemakers	4 — Sheep 120
— Millers	2
— Masons	2
	This

This Table gives the real state of the parish, in the end of the year 1792; and, since that time, there has been but little alteration.

Plantations, &c.—The plantations mentioned in the table are exceedingly valuable, and add greatly to the beauty of this part of the country. All sorts of trees planted in Scotland are to be seen in them; and several sorts in great numbers, and in the most flourishing state. To say nothing of the more common species, the number of fine oak, beech, spruce fir, and sweet chesnut, is very considerable. There are also a few cedars, two of which are among the largest that are to be seen in Scotland.

Pennant says, that the ash does not flourish here; but he must have been led to say this, through inadvertency or misinformation; for there are such fine trees of that species, not only in the pleasure ground and plantations of Duplin, but in various parts of the estate, that the ash may be looked upon as the indigenous tree of the country. The mention of this mistake of Pennant's, naturally leads to the mention of another, though it may be thought, perhaps, to be made a little out of place. Pennant says, that fruit will not ripen at Duplin; and yet it is a certain fact, that peaches and nectarines come to great perfection there every year, on the common wall.

The plantations in this parish are of different ages, a great many of the trees having been planted in the end of the last, and the beginning of this century, and a great many at different times since the year 1762. Duplin castle, the Earl of Kinnoul's principal seat, stands on the rising ground, and is on all sides surrounded with the oldest and the finest of those trees. The rich and beautifully variegated prospect which it commands, and the great extent of the adjacent plantations
and

and pleasure ground, give it a manifest and an acknowledged superiority to far the greatest part of the seats of our Scottish nobility. The house is a very good one. Not the tower only, as Pennant says, but all the south part of the house, being the full half of it, is evidently part of the old castle. The north front and two wings were built by the present Earl's great grandfather, in the years 1688, 1689, and 1690. This front has an elegant appearance. But what perhaps principally claims notice, when the house is mentioned, is the large and well chosen collection of books in the library, and the great number of family portraits, and other pictures done by the best hands, which cover the sides of the different rooms.

Agriculture.—The whole lands of the parish, exclusive of those within Duplin inclosures, are divided into 14 farms. By abolishing that very baneful arrangement of them which was commonly termed runrig, by draining, inclosing, liming, and summer-fallowing the ground, by doing equal justice to every part, and observing a proper rotation of crops, these farms have, within the last thirty years, been greatly improved. Much of the merit of this improvement is justly ascribed to the late Earl of Kinnoul; who, when he came to reside in Scotland, not only took care so to restrict his tenants in the leases he gave them, as to prevent their continuing such of their old practices as were hurtful to the soil, but also pointed out to them a better mode of cultivation, and left no method untried, that was proper to induce them to follow it. At first, they discovered so great an aversion to any change in their old system, that his Lordship at times despaired of being able to overcome it; but, when once they were prevailed upon to make trial of the new one, which he wished them to adopt, it was not long before he had the pleasure to find, not

only that they were perfectly reconciled to it, but that they considered themselves as under great obligations to him, for introducing among them a system of farming so highly advantageous. In consequence of this improved state of the farms, the parish has now a very different face, from what it had when his Lordship came to take up his residence here. At that time there were no grass seeds sown, and no wheat excepting a small quantity sown by the parish minister and one of his neighbours; but now, there are several acres annually sown with grass seeds, and several with wheat by almost every farmer. Now also much good oats is seen growing in several places, where, at that time, there was not pasture sufficient for a single sheep. Hence the rent has been nearly doubled; and yet, being designedly kept moderate, it is cheerfully and punctually paid. The crops raised, besides wheat, clover, and rye-grass, are oats, barley, peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, and lint. Of the three last, the quantity is not great. The rotation of crops which seems to be most approved, but to which few strictly adhere, is, the 1st year after a summer fallow, wheat; 2^d, pease and beans; 3^d, barley, with grass seeds; 4th, clover, and rye-grass; 5th, oats.

Poor.—The poor at present upon the parish roll, are 7 in number. The money arising from collections at the church, fees of mort-cloth, marriages, &c. is not nearly sufficient for their maintenance; but happily for them they have a good friend in Lord Kinnoul. His Lordship, whether residing in the parish, or absent from it, not only continues to give the same weekly sum which his uncle the late Lord gave at church, but is ever ready, as his uncle was, to bestow whatever additional sum is thought necessary for their comfortable subsistence.

Ecclesiastical

Ecclesiastical State.—The church was built by the late Earl in 1773, and is one of the best small churches in Scotland. There is a vault under it for the Kinnoul family, in which the late Earl and one of his sisters lie interred. The manse, which was built in 1749, is pretty good and in tolerable repair. The stipend was augmented last year, and is now 32 bolls of meal, 16 bolls of barley, and L. 74:18:8½ ster. including L. 3:6:8 ster. for communion elements. The Crown and the Earl of Kinnoul are vicepatrons, the Bishop of Dunkeld having, before the union of the two parishes, presented to the church of Aberdalgy, which was in his diocese, and the proprietor of Duplin having presented to the church of Duplin, which was in the diocese of Dunblane.

School.—The established school, which is the only one in the parish, is well attended; several children come to it from other parishes. The schoolmaster has a house, school-house and garden, and L. 10 ster. of a stated yearly salary. As session clerk, his salary is L. 1:5 ster. For some years past, Mr Peddie, the present schoolmaster, has been allowed by Lord Kinnoul, L. 3 ster. in addition to his salary, for his greater encouragement. He deserves all the encouragement that can be given him; few being better qualified to teach English, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, and the first principles of mathematics, and none more assiduous and diligent in teaching them than he is. It will not be deemed improper to add, that he has acquired without any instructor, the rare talent of communicating knowledge to the deaf and dumb, and of teaching them to speak. A boy of this description, not twelve years of age, who never had another teacher, has made a very great proficiency under him. Already he articulates a great many words pretty distinctly, and his articulation appears to

be fast improving. He can give, with ease, the names of most of those objects of sight, which he has had an opportunity of examining. He can read, write, and solve any question in the common rules of arithmetic, as well as most boys of his age, who do not labour under his disadvantages. He seems also to be in a fair way to understand what he reads.

Present and former Proprietors.—The Earl of Kinnoul is proprietor of the whole parish. The whole of it has been the property of the Kinnoul family, since the year 1625, when it was purchased from the Earl of Morton, who possessed it only two or three years. For more than three centuries at least, before it came into his possession, it belonged to the family of Lord Oliphant.

At the siege of Stirling castle, in 1304, there was in the castle, besides Sir William Oliphant of Aberdalgy, the deputy governor, a Sir William de Dupplin his cousin; but before 1364, the property of the lands both of Dupplin and Aberdalgy, was vested in a Sir Walter Oliphant, who in that year, resigned it into the hands of David II. and had a charter granted him by that King, by which the lands were conveyed to him and his wife, one of that King's sisters, to be held in one entire and free barony.

Antiquities.—In the church-yard of Aberdalgy, and on the spot where the old church stood, there is a monument of black marble, with this inscription in Saxon capitals: “ Hic
“ jacet Dominus Willielmus Olifaunt, dominus de Aberdal-
“ gy, qui obiit anno Mill. ccc. vigesimo nono. Orate pro
“ anima ejus.” This perhaps was that brave man, the deputy governor of Stirling castle; who, when summoned in the name of Edward I. to surrender it, made that noble reply: “ I have never sworn fealty to Edward, but I have sworn
“ to

“ to keep the castle, and therefore must wait the orders of “ my constituent ;” and who, when the castle was besieged by Edward in person, and his whole army, had the courage to defend it for full three months ; though before the commencement of the siege, all the rest of the kingdom had been forced to submit to Edward’s power. Douglas, in his peerage, says, I know not upon what authority, that this was the deputy governor’s son ; and Crawford in his, that he was his grandson. Both agree, that it was this Sir William Oliphant, who subscribed along with several other Scottish Barons, the famous letter to the Pope, which asserts with so much spirit, the independence of Scotland.

Besides Duplin castle, the family of Oliphant had a house close by the church of Aberdalgy, the foundations of which may still be traced. At a place called Monday, where there is a commanding view of all the country around, there are some vestiges of a large building, concerning which tradition has handed down nothing but its name, viz. Kemp or Camp castle.

Battle.—This parish was the scene of that unfortunate battle, fought on the 12th August 1332, between Edward Baliol, and the Scottish army commanded by the Earl of Mar. The spot where the battle was fought, has not been ascertained.

Character of the Inhabitants.—As to the character of the people, it may be said with truth, that they are sober, peaceable, and industrious.

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF CARMUNNOCK.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr ADAM FORMAN.

Origin of the Name.

THE parish of Carmunnock, affords but small room for statistical enquiry. The origin of the name cannot now be accurately ascertained. The most probable account is, that it signifies the camp town founded upon the slope or declivity of the hill; and the appearance of the village seems to answer the description.

Ancient State.—It is not easy to determine, what was the condition of the parish of Carmunnock, prior to the year 1569, when there was an application from the presbytery of Glasgow, to the General Assembly; representing, that the presbytery of Glasgow, consisted only of six kirks; Glasgow, Govan, Ruther-glen, Leinzae or Kirkintulloch, Campsie, and Monaburgh or Kilsyth. They represent farther, that each of the presbyteries of Paisley and Hamilton consists of fifteen kirks; and desire, that Monkland, Kilbryde, and Eaglesham from Hamilton; and Mearns, Eastwood, and Cathcart

Cathcart from Paisley, may be added to Glasgow. In this application, Carmunnock is not mentioned; but we find, that in the year 1597, Mr James Hamilton, Minister of Carmunnock, consents that his kirk shall belong to the presbytery of Glasgow, according to the will and ordination of the General Assembly.

Situation, &c.—The parish of Carmunnock, or Carmannock, as it is written in ancient records, is situated in the county of Lanark, presbytery of Glasgow, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is bounded by the parish of Cambuslang on the east, by Kilbryde on the south, by Eaglesham and Mearns on the west, and by Cathcart and Rutherglen on the north.

The extent of the parish from east to west, may be about four miles, and it is about three miles in breadth from north to south; but by including two annexations, the one from the parish of Cathcart, and the other from the parish of Kilbryde; which, by a decret of the proper court, were united in the year 1725, to the parish of Carmunnock, *quoad sacra tantum*, the extent may be six miles in length, and four in breadth.

The greater part of this parish is pretty elevated, and commands one of the most extensive prospects any where to be found. Towards the north and east, the eye is delighted with the most diversified landscape. The rich and fertile plains of Clyde, from Hamilton to Dumbarton, the wide extended country around, which calls forth the exertions and industry of the husbandman; the city of Glasgow, and town of Paisley, with the villages dependant upon them, and which give energy to the ingenuity of so many thousands in the different branches of elegant manufacture, for which these cities are justly famed, strike the eye of the beholder, and gratify his mind, when he reflects upon the useful purpose, in which the varied, and exertive genius of the inhabitants is employed.

employed. The river itself, from many parts of the grounds, is seen in sixteen different openings, and at a distance, vessels of small burden from Greenock, and Port-Glasgow, bearing the rich produce of other climes to this happy country. But the eye in taking a more distant range, brings into view the lofty hills of Arran, and different parts of Argyleshire towards the west, Benlomond and the country around towards the north, the hills of Pentland within a few miles of Edinburgh on the east, and Tintock towards the south. The prospect is so extensive, that a part of sixteen different counties is said to be seen.

Soil, &c.—The soil in this parish is various. A very considerable part is of a light quick mould. There are several farms, part of which consists of a strong deep clay, but which, when properly drained, produces excellent crops. There are other grounds in the parish, the soil of which is of a light shallow clay mixed with sand. This kind of soil is very poor, and is seldom able to bear a rotation of crops, without being every year nourished with the most rich and kindly manure.

There may be about 1500 acres arable, and about 900 or 1000 acres employed in pasturage. The grounds that lie to the west, and especially those towards the north and east, are the most fertile; and from their vicinity to Glasgow, where manure may be procured, are capable of great improvement. These lands produce wheat, barley, pease and beans; but oats are the most common, and have hitherto proved the surest crop. The other grounds in the parish, those especially towards the south, are so elevated in point of situation, that even in places where considerable crops might be raised, it would be difficult to preserve them in any tolerable state of cultivation. These grounds in former times have indeed been

been frequently ploughed, when the farmer was in use to turn all his fields into corn. Seldom, however, did the increase repay the labour; on which account, both from their situation, and the difficulty of access, even though manure could be procured, the greater part of these grounds is turned into pasture.

A gentleman in the neighbourhood, Walter Ewing Macclae, Esq. of Cathkin, who enjoys a considerable estate in this parish, has of late paid much attention to the melioration of his property. He has inclosed at no small expence, the whole of his higher grounds, with what are called Galloway dykes, of five feet and an half high. He has in this manner inclosed upwards of 350 acres, subdividing the whole into parks of a square and oblong form, of 30, 40, and 50 acres each, as suits the nature and appearance of the grounds. His exertions have already been so far crowned with success, that for lands which formerly let for 2 shillings, or 2s. 6d. per acre, and were thus rated by those who enjoyed the lease, he now receives 15 shillings per acre. Nor would he give a lease of 19 years at this rate. The reason, why such a rise has taken place, is, that these grounds not only afford excellent pasturage, according to the use to which they are put, but may be considered as so many temporary folds for sheep brought from a distance, and intended as a ready supply for the Glasgow market.

The same gentleman is also engaged in subdividing, and improving his lower grounds. What he holds in his own possession, he is improving at great expence, both by bringing his servants and labourers from those parts of the country where agriculture is better understood, and also by driving manure from the city of Glasgow, these lands being only about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. For such of the grounds as he is about to let, he demands so much per acre, 40s. for some parts of

them, and 30s. for other fields which are at present less productive. There is no doubt, that he will gain his purpose, as those who have already lived upon the grounds, to whom he is disposed to let them, are inclined to enter upon a new lease, though at twice the rent which was formerly paid. The proprietor himself means to subdivide and inclose them, but insists upon a rotation of crops, upon such grounds as shall be specified in the contract. It must, however, be a considerable time before his laudable efforts can have their full effect, as several of the old leases are not yet expired; but certainly the community at large must wish, that his labours may be crowned with ample success, and that others by his exertions may be excited to the like spirited industry.

Improvements.—In this parish there is yet great room for many useful improvements. Though the breed of horses is excellently adapted for the plough, and for heavy carriage, yet such is the prevalence of custom, and an attachment to former practices, that the old Scottish plough is for the most part used, and commonly dragged by four of those sturdy animals; while, if Small's plough with its late improvements were introduced, two such horses would be sufficient for the draught, without a driver, or plough-boy, who is at present a necessary attendant. Several of the more enlightened farmers, it is hoped, amidst *other reforms*, will attend to such, as will in the end prove really beneficial to themselves and to their country.

Most of the farms are inclosed, some with stone, and the greater part with thorn-hedges; the latter if properly cared for, are preferable in a high country, upon account of the warmth and shelter they afford during an inclement season. Perhaps it would add both to ornament, and utility, were the greater part of the grounds inclosed with
belts

belts of planting of considerable breadth, particularly in such situations as require protection from the storms, of wind and rain, which are here very frequent.

Rent.—The lands in this parish do not rent high in comparison of the present general rate of purchase. What is remarkable, the son, father, and grandfather, as far as recollection goes back, have lived upon the same grounds, and consider themselves as they express it, “naturalized to the soil.” They are still subjected to many burdens, or services, which the proprietor of the land requires, such as driving coals, working at hay, and other pieces of labour, all which ought to be abolished, because they check the spirit of improvement, and encroach upon those precious hours which the husbandman should employ in reaping the fruits of his own patient industry.

The lands upon an average, in this parish, may rate at 15s. per acre. The valued rent of the parish is L. 1650 : 10 Scots; the real rent may be between L. 1600 and L. 2000 sterling, if we include feu-duty and superiorities.

Horses, &c.—The number of horses used for draught and the farm, are about 70, but by including the annexations to the parish, about 120. The number of milk cows, about 215, most of which are reared in the parish. The cows are of a moderate size, neither so large as the English, nor so small as the Highland cow. During the summer months they give 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16, Scotch pints of milk per day.

The horses are very heavy and large. They are of the large Clydesdale breed, and are every where common in this part of the country, being either reared by the care of the farmer himself, or purchased at the Rutherglen market. Most of the horses used in this parish are black, and mea-

sure from 14 to 16 hands high. They are uncommonly well matched, and may rate from L. 24 to L. 45 per head.

Management of Farms.—The whole of the farmers here, and especially those whose farms lie in the more elevated parts of the parish, incline to plough little, but to let their grounds lie in pasturage for 4, 5, and even 6 years, before they lay them down a second time in corn. Thus, what has been in crop for the three preceeding years, must be in pasture for the three or four years following; while those proportions of the farm that have been in pasture the appointed time, are again ploughed up, and appropriated for corn, though sufficient care is not had to crop in due rotation. To this mode of oeconomy, the farmers are in some measure obliged to adhere, because of the dearth and scarcity of proper manure. Lime is at hand in the neighbourhood, and some avail themselves of it; but from experience it has been found, that lime alone, will not answer a soil and mould so light and quick, without it receives at certain intervals, a more generous and unctuous manure. Dunghills consisting of a mixture of earth and lime, are the kind of manure which is most in use.

The greater part of the farmers and people in the neighbourhood, send the produce of the dairy to Glasgow, where at times they find a ready market. The cheese is of an excellent quality, being no wise inferior to that mild kind, which in many parts of Scotland is known by the name of Dunlop. A farmer who pays between L. 70 and L. 80 of annual rent, and who converts the greater part of his milk into this necessary article, will send 130 stone to the market, at 5s. 6d. or 6s. per stone; a very considerable portion of his rent.

The

The farmers here follow the Irish method, and churn the whole of the milk. They are of opinion, that the butter is not so apt to turn rancid, as when the cream, after having been long gathered, is only churned. And from various experiments in different parts of the country, there seems to be some truth in the assertion.

The milk of each cow upon an average, will produce four pounds of butter per week, from the beginning of May, till the middle month of October, which the farmer sells at 1s. and never below 10d. per pound. The farmer who has 12 milk cows, will therefore, during the 6 summer and harvest months, when the grass is most luxuriant, make L. 50 sterling of his butter, and above L. 20 of his butter milk, which is readily sold in Glasgow, and its neighbourhood, at $\frac{3}{4}$ and never less than a halfpenny the Scotch pint, or two English quarts.

Though the farmers have a ready market in Glasgow at all seasons for such necessary articles, as milk and butter, yet they are not at due pains to keep winter cows in such order, as to secure such a quantity of milk, as it would be an object to bring to market. Feeding with turnip is seldom practised, though such of the farmers as have attempted this, have found a very good return. It is however hoped, that a crop so beneficial in situations where the milk can be consumed, or the cattle fattened for the market, will even here be brought into more general practice.

Quarries, &c.—In many parts of the parish, there is coal and lime-stone, neither of which has been wrought to any extent. There is also iron-stone, which was once contracted for by the proprietors of the Clyde iron-works, but owing to some failure in the contract, the agreement became null;

null; since which period, the stone, though said to be of an excellent quality, has been neglected.

There are also extensive quarries of excellent free-stone, some of a soft, and others of a very firm texture. What is remarkable, in the whole estate of Cathkin, which is nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the parish, there is no free-stone to be found, but all below the surface is solid whin of the most durable kind, except one or two inconsiderable quarries of rotten rock, useful only on the highways. In this district there are also massy pillars of the stone called basalt; a description of which has more than once been given to the public.

Water, &c.—In every part of the parish, and particularly in the higher grounds, there are many springs of the most excellent water, those especially which issue from the crevices of the solid rock. The quality of the water is so good, that several gentlemen from the university and neighbourhood of Glasgow, well known for their respectability, and high attainment in the different departments of science, were at the pains to make an accurate survey of all the different springs, to try whether a quantity sufficient for the supply of the city of Glasgow could be procured. It was however found, upon actually survey, that if all the springs upon the brow of the hill were collected, with the view to be introduced into the city, they could only afford 70 Scots pints in the minute, which was $\frac{2}{3}$ less than the quantity required.

Mineral Spring, Rivers, Roads.—There is also a mineral spring, said to be of considerable virtue in the cure of various diseases, which many people in the neighbourhood used formerly to attend: But for many years, the spring has been deserted, sea-bathing quarters being at present the more fashionable resort.

There

There are few rivers of any note in the parish, except the Cart which runs along its western boundary with great rapidity. Its banks in most parts are covered with wood, which, together with its meandrings, and the rapidity of its stream, renders it highly picturesque and romantic. It has many eligible situations for cotton-mills, and other works of utility, which require a great weight, and quantity of water. And it is surprizing, that, in a neighbourhood, where spirit, and industry have so long been exerted, such situations, intended by nature to call forth the ingenuity of man, should not have been long ago converted into many valuable purposes. The only cotton-mill erected in this quarter, upon the Mearns side of the river, belongs to a company in Manchester.

The great road, leading from Glasgow to England by Kilbryde, Muirkirk, Dumfries, Carlisle, &c. passes through the eastern part of this parish. There is another road that joins with the former, near to Kilbryde, intended as a thorough fare to Paisley, and the neighbourhood, which passes through the annexed part of the parish; and there is a third already contracted for, which joins the Paisley road towards the south-west, and is to pass through the village of Carmunnock, to lead to Glasgow.

Population.—The state of population, as far as can be traced back by sessional record, appears for the last 150 years, to have been nearly the same. Before the year 1640, a registration of marriages and births began to be kept; but several parts of the register, from decay, and other accidental causes, cannot now be read. What was the condition of the parish 100 years ago, with respect to population, may in some measure, be collected from the following statement.

Marriages.

	Marriages. Births.			Marriages. Births. Burials.		
In 1688	6	14	In 1788	8	22	13
1689	3	12	1789	10	22	11
1690	5	19	1790	5	15	12
1691	11	18	1791	4	20	14
1692	8	14	1792	11	18	11
1693	9	15	1793	10	14	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
In 6 years	42	92	- -	48	111	70
Av. for 1 year	7	15	- -	8	18	11

The number of families, including individuals who have separate dwelling houses, amounts to 133. There are 260 males, and 310 females; so that the number of souls in the parish, is 570. Of these, there are 115 children under 10 years of age.

Present population,	-	-	-	570
Do. in 1755,	-	-	-	471
Increase,	-	-	-	99

In the parish, there are 15 weavers, 8 Mafons, who at the same time are employed as wrights; these occupations being in this place considered as connected. There are 6 shoemakers, 2 taylors, 10 day-labourers, 3 millers, 1 carrier, 1 cooper, 3 gardeners, 1 smith, 36 men-servants, 42 women-servants.

Price of Labour, and Provisions.—Of late years, the price of labour is very high. The wages of a man-servant, are seldom below L. 10 sterling yearly. The wages of a woman-servant, are seldom less than L. 4 sterling, and frequently L. 4:10. The wages of a labourer in hay-time, and harvest, are commonly 1s 6d, and frequently, 2 shillings. A day-labourer

bourer in winter, commonly earns per day, 1 shilling, and 1s 6d in summer. A taylor uniformly receives 1 shilling, and a mason 1s 8d, and frequently, especially in summer, 2 shillings.

The price of provisions has of late also risen very high. Meal is in general, about 1s 1d per peck; cheese, 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lib.; butter, 10d, and often 1 shilling per lib.; hens, 1s 8d to 2 shillings, or 3s 4d to 4 shillings the pair; eggs, 6d, 8d, and sometimes, 10d per dozen. The two last articles are here frequently higher than in the city of Glasgow; because the seller, or retailer, will rather choose to carry such articles to market, and sell them at a reduced price, than accept of a higher price at home; beef and mutton, are commonly about 6d or 7d, per lib. being the same as in Glasgow, besides the additional expence of carriage.

Heritors.—There are only two considerable heritors in this parish, all the rest, in number 14, including feuars, most of whom, at different times, have purchased a piece of ground from the family of Castlemilk, being under L. 150 sterling of annual rent.

Sir John Stuart of Castlemilk, is patron of this parish. The church was rebuilt in the year 1767. It is a small edifice, built of fine and free-stone, and is very commodiously fitted up for the parish, who are in general constant in their attendance upon divine worship.

The manse and offices are also in excellent repair, and were equal attention paid to the melioration of the benefice, the charge would be both easy and comfortable. But, although there are two annexations, (*quoad sacra*), which pay temporalia to the extent of near 70 bolls of meal, besides vicarage to other parishes, the stipend of Carmunnock, with all the additional labour occasioned by this circumstance, for which nothing is

received, amounts to little more than 5 chalders of meal, and 11 bolls of bear, or rough barley, with L. 9:5:0: $\frac{3}{4}$ of vicarage, and L. 2:0:2 $\frac{1}{2}$, for communion elements; though, owing to the vast concourse of people from Glasgow, and the neighbouring parishes, the expence incurred when the Sacrament is dispensed, amounts to four times the sum*.

The glebe, including the site of manse, offices, and what is appropriated for garden, measures about 5 acres.

Succession of Ministers in Carmunnock.

Mr Andrew Hamilton, vicar	1586
Mr James Hamilton, reader and vicar	1586
Mr Archibald Glen, from Rutherglen, admitted 27th April	1603
Mr Robert Glen, admitted 23d August	1614
Mr James Mowbrae, admitted 27th November 1622, removed by the Archbishop,	1633
Mr James Hutcheson, from Houstoun, admitted 7th December 1633, deposed	1639
Mr Matthew M'Kaill, admitted 17th May 1640, went to Bothwell,	1649
Mr Andrew Myrton, (Morton) admitted 8th May 1650, turned out at the Restoration, re-instated at the Revolution, died July	1691
Mr Robert Boyd, during the deposition of Myrton, 18th January	1665
Mr Andrew Tait, ——— 22d March	1692
Mr John Kerr, ordained 3d May 1744, died 24th April	1775
Mr Joseph Hodgson, ordained 30th May 1776, died 6th December	1785
Mr	

* There has been no augmentation of stipend for near 150 years.

Mr James French, ordained 21st September 1786, trans-	
lated to Kilbryde, 21st April	1791
Mr Adam Forman, ordained 26th January	1792

Poor.—Every part of the parish being remarkably healthy, the poor are not numerous. Such however, as are upon the roll, are well cared for; and there is no remembrance when an individual, either man or woman, was permitted to beg. The parish have a comfortable supply for all the purposes of indigence, which arises from the interest of a stock of upwards of L. 400 sterling. This fund has been raised by donations at different times from the family of Castlemilk, and principally, by the weekly collections, which have always been considerable, owing to the uniform attention which this family has ever paid to the parish in the choice of their pastors. The parish has always been kept together, so that there are very few dissenters; notwithstanding the rage for mock liberty. There are 8 at an average upon the roll. There are only 16 dissenters of all denominations; and while the people have been satisfied, the Patron, by prudent address, has ever pleased himself, and got the man of his choice.

School.—There is only one school in the parish. The schoolmaster has a teaching room, and dwelling house, with 100 merks of salary. The number of scholars, is usually between 40 and 50. The wages or fees are so very low, that the whole living, including the office of Session Clerk, and Precentor, will scarcely amount to L. 25 per annum.

Antiquities.—The whole of this parish has been in former times the scene of active exploits, especially the grounds which lie towards the south-east. Various tumuli yet remain; and in those which have been opened, urns, formed of clay, and

rudely carved, were found; in which the ashes of the dead seem to have been deposited. Their contents within consisted chiefly of a dry unctuous earth, mixed with human bones; and a sort of reedy substance, which, perhaps it is impossible for us now to explain. We can form no credible conjecture about the time when these urns were first deposited in the earth; and few things have been found, so as to ascertain, whether they are Roman, or Celtic; but it is most probable, that they are the latter; and that the tumuli in which they are placed, have been raised in the time of the druids, before the christian æra. Commonly in the midst of the mound, square stones are placed, which form a kind of chest, or stone-coffin, in which the bones of the warrior, or of some person of superior rank and authority, have been consigned to the earth. It is remarkable, that all these chests are formed of fine free-stone, which must have been brought from a distance, as there is nothing of the kind to be found in this part of the parish.

In the estate of Castlemilk, are found the remains of a Roman causeway, or military road; and in an adjoining field, several pieces of ancient armour, with camp-utensils, were lately dug up. The helmet and neckpiece are of an uncommon size, and though they are much corroded, and must have lain long in the earth, they still weigh near 18 lib. Avoirdupois.

In the house of Castlemilk, which is noted for its fine situation, the unfortunate Mary is said to have lodged the night before the battle of Langside. Many different spots are pointed out in the neighbourhood, where, the following day, she viewed the discomfiture of her army, which was the ruin of all her fortunes. The most probable place, is upon the brow of the eminence above Castlemilk, where a spring issues from the rock, and moistens the root of a thorn-tree,

now grown venerable with age, under which she sat; and which is preserved as a lasting memorial of that melancholy disaster.

Diseases.—Many of the people from the healthful situation of the parish, attain to a good old age. Some carry on the labours of the field, especially in time of harvest, at the age of 85. Fevers, are in general the disease which proves most fatal to old people. There cannot be finer, nor more healthy children, than in this parish; but from inattention, they often suffer from colds, which when neglected, bring on other diseases. On which account, many children suffer by quinsys, and especially from a disease which in Scotland, goes by the name of the croup. This disease for the most part, proves fatal; if the immediate assistance of a physician be not procured.

The small pox returns very often, and the distemper is never alleviated, as the people from a sort of blind fatality, will not hear of inoculation, though attempts have often been made to remove their scruples on this subject; but every such effort has hitherto proved unsuccessful. It is a circumstance however, worthy of being related, that in the whole district of Cathkin, where there have always been 80 individuals; there has not been an instance of a death by the small pox, for these last 24 years; though the disease has, in that period, at least appeared six times, and uniformly visited every family.

Manners, &c.—The whole of this parish is connected by inter-marriages; and this, for many ages past, as appears from the public register, which has uniformly been kept. From accurate enquiry, it has been found, that there are not above 15 persons, and these chiefly servants, who have no fixed

fixed residence, who cannot claim alliance with the whole parish; so that when an individual connects himself by marriage, he may consider himself as having gained above 500 relations at once, by such affinity. Whether he lives happier on this account, or whether, from this extensive relationship, fraternal kindness is more strongly called forth, we choose at present to leave undetermined. Certain it is, if people are so inclined, no situation can be more favourable for giving force to such kind exertion. It is the more remarkable, that in the vicinity of a large and populous city, this parish should remain, like the Hebrews of old, a distinct people, and preclude, as it were, the whole world from their alliance.

It is but just to say, that the greater part of this parish, are decent in their morals; sober, honest, and industrious; and that there is no instance of any person having suffered any capital punishment. Perhaps it would be saying too much, to affirm, that they are in any respects, better than their neighbours; but one thing is certain, that for near three years, in which their present pastor has lived among them, he has never seen an individual overtaken by intemperance. They are also in general, uniform in their attendance upon divine worship; and what few pastors can say, there is scarcely a family in the parish, however unfashionable the practice is, who do not assemble, and consider it as their duty both evening, and morning, to bow the knee in acknowledgement to the great Creator. But while we wish not to withhold just praise, we must also mention a custom which still prevails, and which certainly ought to be abolished. It is usual in this parish, as in many other parts of Scotland, when a death has taken place, to invite on such occasions, the greater part of the country around; and though called to attend at an early hour in the forenoon, yet it is generally towards evening, before they think of carrying forth the
corpse

corpse to the church-yard for interment. While, on these occasions, the good folks are assembled, though they never run into excess, yet no small expence is incurred by the family; who often vie with those around them, in giving, as they call it, an honourable burial to their deceased friend. Such a custom is attended with many evils, and frequently involves in debt, or reduces to poverty, many families otherwise frugal and industrious, by this piece of useless parade, and ill judged expence.

We are however happy to add, that notwithstanding the present desire after innovation, and a love of change, the contagion has not hitherto spread among the people in this parish. Means have indeed been employed to corrupt them, and to draw the unwary into the pestilent vortex, but by watchful attention, the malignant efforts of designing men have hitherto been rendered ineffectual. There are indeed some, who have got the hackneyed phrases of the day, "Liberty," "Reform," &c. but there are none who have openly pretended to countenance measures, and practices, which by every good Christian, and every loyal subject, will ever be abhorred. Happy in our monarch, in our constitution, in our religion, and in our laws, our desire and earnest prayer is, That our sovereign, and his august family may long be preserved by the good providence of God, and continue to sway the sceptre of equity and peace over a happy people; and that the inestimable constitution they maintain, and the invaluable rights, civil and sacred, which we enjoy, may remain until that hour shall come, that shall dissolve the universe.

Fortunati! semper, sua si bona norint.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF CARSTAIRS.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES FINLAYSON.

Situation, Name.

THE parish of Carstairs is situated in the county of Lanark, synod of Glasgow and Ayr, and presbytery of Lanark; at the distance of 27 miles west from Edinburgh, and 25 miles east from Glasgow.

It is supposed that the parish derives its name from the form of the ground, which, on the north side of the village, arises gradually in several long ridges like steps or stairs, and running parallel to one another; some of these along the Lanark road seem to have been artificially formed into earthen mounds similar to bastions in fortification.

Others with more probability, think that the name is taken from an old castle which stood at the east end of the village, and had been either a repository of stores or provision for the inhabitants, at the time that the Romans remained in their encampment here, or a place of strength to secure them from the depredations of their enemies at a later period. Hence Carstairs may be derived from *carr*, which signifies town or city,

city, and *yflor*, provision, the town or castle of provision.

Extent, &c.—The length of the parish from S. to N. is six miles, and it is three in breadth from E. to W. It is surrounded by the parishes of Lanark, Pettinain, Carnwath, and Carluke. The rising ground, already mentioned, divides it into moor and dale lands, differing considerably in soil and climate. The upper or moor land part is a mixture of clay and black earth, the dale or low land is a sharp sandy soil. Both divisions are of a good quality, and capable of producing excellent crops, were farming more studied, and the land properly cleaned and cultivated. The great obstruction to improvement is the absurd custom of using turf for fuel, which is altogether unnecessary here, as there is great abundance of good coal to be had at a moderate distance. Some of the tenants begin to open their eyes, and to be sensible that the precious time consumed in digging, winning, and leading home peats, would be much better employed in improving the fields. There is every reason to think, that agriculture will soon be brought to a high state of perfection, as there is no parish in Scotland where the farmer has greater encouragement or more local advantages, the leases in general being granted for the space of fifty seven years, at a reasonable rate, and a ready market at hand for every commodity.

Patron, Church, &c.—Mr Fullerton of Carstairs is patron, and principal heritor of the parish. There are five other heritors, two of whom besides the patron reside. The valued rent is L. 2150 Scots; what the real rent is, the present incumbent has not had access to know, as he only became minister of this parish on the 14th of August 1794. He

has been told, that the rental is considerably above L. 2000 ster. and that the stipend is about L. 50 in money, and three chalders of victual.

A new and elegant church has been built this season, 51 feet by 32 within walls, with an aisle and gallery, the side wall 20 feet in height, and the steeple 53; and it is all to be finished in a proper style.

Poor.—The provision for the poor consists of L. 230 ster. of capital stock; the interest of the principal sum, with the yearly collections of the church, which, at an average, is L. 16:9 ster. are sufficient funds for the purpose.

Population Table.

N ^o . of families			<i>Professions.</i>	
Below 10	-	187	Clergyman	1
From 10 to 20	-	217	Schoolmasters	3
— 20 to 50	-	305	Gardeners	6
— 50 to 70	-	273	Wrights	12
Above 70	-	96	Smiths	6
Total	-	33	Tailors	10
Males	-	422	Weavers	23
Females	-	502	Shoemakers	14
N ^o . of Farms	-	87	Coopers	3
Above L. 50 of rent, (less	-		Slaters	3
than L. 100)	-	6	Hofiers	2
— Above L. 100	-	4	Licensed publicans	4
— Above L. 200	-	1	Shopkeepers	4
N ^o . of horses	-	211	Male servants	68
— cows	-	396	Female servants	73
— sheep	-	790	Day labourers	34
— ploughs	-	40		

Births.

	Births.	Burials.	Marriages.	Collections.
In 1784	22	12	8	£. 16 9
1785	26	11	7	16 11
1786	18	10	10	16 15
1787	24	18	8	14 19
1788	20	15	7	14 14
1789	29	9	8	16 0
1790	26	20	11	19 0
1791	21	16	6	16 4
1792	26	14	10	18 0
1793	19	11	12	16 0
	231	136	87	£. 164 12

A correct parish register has been kept for many years, and the session records extend as far back as the year 1672, in which there is nothing interesting or curious, excepting some severe instances of church discipline, especially during the ministry of Mr John M'Laren, who was afterwards so well known and so much esteemed at Edinburgh. This famous man was translated from Kippen in Perthshire, to the parish of Carstairs, in 1699, and for twelve years had ruled the people with a rod of iron; since his time the authority of the kirk session has been on the decline.

Gardening.—This branch of improvement is carried on with great spirit, and to as high a pitch of perfection as the nature of the climate will admit. In the gardens of Carstairs house which are extensive, not only the fruits that are common, but grapes, pine apples, melons, and every thing which the country can produce in that way, are raised in great abundance. The tea, coffee, and other foreign plants have been tried, and thrive beyond expectation. The plantations around

the house, which is beautifully situated on the banks of the river Clyde, occupy 500 acres of rich land, and have been laid out with great taste.

Antiquities.—The only Roman camp in this part of the country had been on the south side of this parish, on a rising ground near the Clyde. The camp itself is an exact square of six acres, and notwithstanding the attempts of the plough and spade to destroy the works of that great people, the prætorium is still visible, and the walls of circumvallation pretty entire. The causeway leading to the camp and from it, is in a direct line, and can be traced several miles. Pots and dishes of different sizes, and instruments of war and sacrifice, have been lately discovered. Coins of various kinds and of different value have been dug up, bearing the inscription of M. Aurelius, M. Antoninus, &c. Some of these coins have been sent by Mr Fullerton, to the Antiquarian Society, and to the University of Glasgow.

Character.—As the writer of this account has resided in this parish only for a very short time, he is by no means qualified to draw the character of the people. He can say with truth, that they are regular in attending divine worship; and is told, that they all adhere to the church of Scotland, a few persons in the extremity of the parish excepted, who find it convenient to attend a burgher meeting at Davie's Dykes.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF SNIZORT.

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS.)

By the Rev. Mr MALCOM M'LEOD.

Situation and Extent.

THIS parish is situated in the Island of Sky, and county of Inverness: It belongs to the presbytery of Sky, and synod of Glenelg.

The extent of this parish is considerable, being between 11 and 12 computed miles from south to north, and in some parts, no less than six from east to west; but the form of it is irregular; the west part being intersected by an arm of the sea, called Loch Snizort. This loch stretches at least four miles inland, in a direction nearly south-east; it is narrow and shallow, and forms bays, and curves, as it goes along.

The parish of Snizort, is bounded by that of Portree on the south; by that of Bracadale on the south-west; by that of Diurinish on the west; by that of Kilmuir on the north; and by the channel between Trotornish and the Island of Raray, (a part of the parish of Portree), on the east.

Soil, &c.—The general appearance of this district is rather hilly and mountainous; the surface is unequal, and forms several

several valleys, or, as we call them, glens; yet there are some fields pretty extensive, level and arable. The land as well as the soil is various. The land for the most part is thin and dry, with some hanging and spouty ground; and the soil poor, light, and gravelly; and yields no produce, unless it is laid over with a thick coat of manure. In the north part, and in a few spots in the west, the land is deeper, and the soil more fertile; and in the east side of the parish, the land is in general deep, and clay. The quantity of arable ground has never been ascertained; but by far the greater part of this district consists of uncultivated lands, overgrown with heath and heather; of moor and moss; of hills and mountains, a few of which, are green and dry to the top; the greater number however, are wet and heathy. There is a ridge of very high mountains, steep and rocky on that side facing the east, running from south to north, and separating the east part of this district of the barony of Trotternish from the west.

The principal crops in the parish, are oats and potatoes. When the seasons are favourable, such a quantity of each, as is necessary for the maintenance of its inhabitants, is raised within the bounds of the parish; but when unfavourable, which more frequently happens to be the case, there is a general demand for imported meal. The seed time is from about the 20th of March, to near the middle of May. The harvest seldom begins before the middle of September, and often not till October; and the crop is rarely got totally into the barn-yards, before the beginning of November, and frequently much later; the late harvests are generally bad, and always precarious in this country; from the lateness as well as from the uncertainty of the seasons, this district, and indeed most of the island, seems calculated by nature, more for grazing and green pasture, than for raising corn.

The

The middle part of this parish, is let to principal tacksmen; and both the ends are possessed by a set of small tenantry. The tacksmen till the ground with a home-made plough, drawn by four horses; these ploughs, besides the ploughman and driver, always require the attendance of one, and frequently two men to lay over and dress the ground properly. About two years ago, Mr M'Donald of Lindle introduced Small's ploughs from the south country; their utility in the great saving of labour in men and horses being soon observed, they were readily adopted by the principal farmers, not only of this district, but also of the neighbouring ones; some of the smallest tenants too use the common plough, for their weak ground, in the latter end of spring; yet the chief instrument they use in cultivating the ground, is the crooked spade.

Population, &c.—Although there have formerly been some emigrations from this, as well as from the adjacent parishes; and although that district of it, that is situated to the west of the water of Snizort, and Loch Snizort, which was formerly let to small tenants, is now in the hands of its different proprietors; yet the population seems rather on the increase: This I think, must be attributed chiefly to the introduction of inoculation, which of late years, is practised with great success. When that malignant disease, in times past, visited this country, which it then did not very frequently, its depredations were visibly felt, in sweeping away almost whole families, leaving not above one, two, or sometimes three together in a house; but since inoculation, to which the lower class of people have for some time been reconciled, became general, it seldom proves mortal, and has really been so in very few instances. The number of souls at present in the parish, is about 894 males, and 914 females; making 1808
3 souls

souls in all. Population in 1755 was 1627. The increase therefore, is 181. The session funds of this parish are so poor, (being only the Sundays collections, which are exceedingly small, and a few trifling articles besides), that they do not admit of having a session clerk, consequently no register is kept of either births, marriages, or deaths; so that no certain conclusion can be formed upon these articles. The funds of the parish are distributed yearly, or once in the two years, among its poor, who depend for their maintenance chiefly on the generosity of the benevolent tenant.

The number of black cattle, horses, and sheep in the parish, is not easily ascertained; from the best information and strictest enquiry, it is concluded there are no fewer than 2537 cows, including all at and above a year old. A certain number of these, the different farmers and tenants drive to Portree, where two public fairs are held in the year, the first always on the last Wednesday of May, and the second on the same day of July following; and there dispose of them to the best advantage. From the money got for their cattle (which is the chief, and I may say the only export of the place), they pay their rents to the different landlords, and furnish the requisites for themselves and families. There are no fewer than 597 horses, all of which are reared and bred for private use. It is believed the number of sheep are nearly about 1952, chiefly of the small highland breed; the wool of these sheep, some of which is of a pretty fine texture, the different families get manufactured into cloaths, stuffs, and blanketing of various sorts for their private use. A few goats are kept by the principal farmers.

Red foxes, notwithstanding, a handsome premium is given for every one that is killed, are still numerous and very destructive to sheep and lambs.

The

The eagle, kite, hawk, and black raven, are to be seen here, the moorfowl, partridge, and such other birds as are natives of the west country, (the black-cock and his mate excepted) inhabit this district, and a few tarmagans are to be met with on the summits of the highest hills. The migratory birds are the cuckow and swallow; the wood-cock arrives in the winter, and takes his leave in spring. The sea-gulls, cormorants, searts, and other aquatic fowls, frequent the coast: The otter and seal, also visit the shores.

Manufactures, &c.—Public manufactures have not yet found their way into this parish. The regular tradesmen are weavers, taylors, millers, blacksmiths, house and boat carpenters. The generality of the inhabitants are their own masons and shoemakers.

There are three mills in this district, two upon that part of the property belonging to Lord M'Donald, and the third upon M'Leod of Rasay's property.

Rivers, Antiquities, Natural Curiosities, &c.—There are seven large and rapid waters, in the greater part of which, some salmon are caught from May till August. The chief of these, is the water or river of Snizort, which takes its rise in the parish of Bracadale, and running in a direction nearly north west, discharges itself in the sea, at the end of the loch of that name. At about a quarter of a mile's distance from the shore, this water forms an island of nearly an acre and a half, formerly the habitation of monks and priests, but now the burying place of many families, in this as well as the adjacent districts. In this small island are the ruins of an old large cathedral, which in all probability has once

been the metropolitan church of the whole island of Sky.

Several vestiges of druidical temples are to be met with, and some of them pretty entire. There are also duins, all of a circular form, and built without either lime or mortar. These duins or towers are thought to be Danish, and were used as garrisons, or rather watch towers, or perhaps both; what makes the latter probable, is, that from each of these towers, another is seen from either hand; and when any one was alarmed at the approach of a hostile train, a signal could be immediately made, (perhaps by fire or smoke), which being soon discovered by those who were next in sight, they could instantly repeat the signal; and thus the whole inhabitants of the country capable of bearing arms, might in a very short time be collected and armed to repel the common enemy.

Many cairns or heaps of small stones thrown together are to be seen. In these cairns are contained urns, wherein the ashes of some renowned chiefs who fell in the field of battle, are deposited; in one of these lately dug up, was found a large stone chest or coffin, made of four stones, its dimensions were about five feet long, by four and a half broad; upon the layer, which is a large single stone of nearly six feet by five, and a foot and a half thick, was found the handle of some weapon, resembling much the hilt of a small sword, but quite corroded with rust; and a pin which seemed to be compound metal, about seven inches long, somewhat rounder than a pretty large probe, at the one end flat and broad, and the other round and sharp pointed. Within the coffin was an urn of burnt clay, nicely carved, yet without any inscription; the urn being broke by the tools employed in removing the layer, none of the contents were discovered. Other urns of a similar kind have been formerly dug up in this district.

At

At the bottom of one of those high rocks, and at a small distance from it, on the east side, is a huge perpendicular stone, or natural obelisk of uncommon height and magnitude, which, when seen from a distance, very much resembles a large steeple. This stone is about 360 feet in circumference at the base; a little below the middle it is a good deal rounder, and thence lessening upwards, seems to end nearly in a sharp point; its height is thought to exceed three hundred feet.

There is also in the same side of the parish, in the march between it and the parish of Portree, a beautiful fall of water, or cataract, the perpendicular height of which may be about ninety feet; what is most remarkable relative to this fall, is, that nearly opposite to the middle of it, there is an arched hollow path across the rock, along which five or six people may walk abreast with the greatest safety, quite secure from and unmolested by the body of water that rolls over them, and which in this situation they might mistake for a thick pillar of close smoke, did they not see it dash upon the rocks below.

Diseases, &c.—No local sickness or distempers of any kind are prevalent in the parish. In a wet open season, rheumatism, coughs, and colds, are frequent; some epidemical fevers appear too, and are at times mortal. The winter and springs are generally damp, cold, and piercing. The air, however, on the whole, is not thought unsalubrious, and some instances of longevity tend to confirm the opinion; five or six people have died within the last two years, whose respective ages were from eighty-four to ninety, and many are now living in this district above eighty years of age.

Rents, &c.—There are six proprietors, four of whom have become proprietors in the year 1779, at which time they feued that district of the parish that was formerly the sole property

of the Laird of M'Leod, of which he has retained the superiority, and a handsome annual feu duty.

The division of the parish belonging to Lord M'Donald, rents at above L. 800. That belonging to M'Leod of Rafay, at about L. 120; and that district, the property of the above mentioned feuers, rented when purchased by them for about L. 200 ster. but would now undoubtedly bring them as much more, were they to let their respective properties.

Schools, Church, &c.—There are no public schools in this district. The places of worship are four, at a considerable distance from each other. The vestiges of a parish kirk only remain; an estimate of one has been taken last year, with a view of building early this season, but no farther steps have hitherto been taken. There is no manse, the present incumbent, Mr Malcolm M'Leod, lives on a small farm which he rents from Lord M'Donald; he became minister of Snizort in the year 1788. His predecessors in the parish were Messrs Archibald, Donald, Archibald, and William M'Queens, all in lineal descent, the son uniformly succeeding the father for four generations. The present minister is married, and has four sons and three daughters.

The value of the living, including the glebe, is about L. 75 ster. The patronage is claimed by the crown and the Laird of M'Leod, but both concurring in the settlement of the present incumbent, who had a regular presentation from each, the question of right was left to be discussed before the court competent, at some future period.

The name of the parish, as well as the names of most places in it, are Danish; some indeed are of Celtic origin; and in some instances, the places take their names from their local situation.

Kelp.

Kelp.—The quantity of kelp manufactured here is not considerable, being only about fifty tons yearly, and this on the west shores alone; those on the east are bold, deep, and of difficult access, and yield no ware for making kelp.

There are some fresh water lochs, a few of which abound in fine large red trout.

Herring Fishery.—Considerable quantities of herring have visited Loch Snizort for some years past, commonly in the month of August, where many of the herring buffes have been pretty successful, but the country people, from the difficulty of procuring salt, have not reaped from it the advantages they might receive, were the salt laws such as to allow them to furnish themselves at an easier and cheaper rate.

The fuel used through this whole district is peats; they are cut from the moss, chiefly in the month of May, and when the summer is wet, the inhabitants are commonly very ill supplied.

NUMBER

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF WEST-CALDER.

(COUNTY OF MID-LOTHIAN.)

*By the Rev. Mr MUCKERSIE.**Situation and Extent.*

THE parish of West-Calder lies in the county of Mid-Lothian, in the presbytery of Linlithgow, and in the synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The average breadth of this parish, is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and the length 10 miles. It is bounded on the south, by the Cairn hills, and on the north, by the Briech water, which falls into the Almond, at the north-east point of this parish. The southern part, which lies contiguous to the parishes of Dunfyre and Carnwath, consists of high and moorish grounds, interspersed with morasses of considerable extent. These grounds, for the most part, incapable of cultivation, are parcelled out in sheep farms. The arable parts of this parish vary considerably in their value, either from the degree of improvement, or their local situation; but the soil of the whole parish is of a black mossy earth, or a wet clay, both on a till bottom.

The height above the level of the sea, is from 450 to 700 feet; and from this circumstance joined to the neighbourhood
of

of the Cairn hills, this parish is exposed to considerable degrees of cold and moisture. The chief storms of wind and rain are from the south and south-west.

Agriculture and Produce.—The modes of agriculture most generally practised, in all probability have been nearly the same, since any part of the parish was cultivated. Hence agriculture, except in those instances when the common methods are departed from, is in its simplest and rudest state. The whole process consists of spreading dung on lee; allowing it to lie for some time on the surface, and then taking three or four crops of oats. After this, the field lies three or four years in grass, and the process begins again. In place of dung, the middle of a high ridge, is sometimes opened with the plough, and the furrow mixed with lime, and spread over the surface. It is somewhat astonishing, that notwithstanding this mode of agriculture, the farmer frequently reaps apparently luxuriant crops; and perhaps the only probable way of accounting for it is, that in many instances, the crop is not sufficiently ripe to exhaust the manure. The farmers here have discovered, that lime acts as a powerful solvent on all kinds of mossy earth; and they have applied the discovery, with great success to the purposes of agriculture. The spirit of improvement has now begun to reach this place. The soil in many cases, has been by some of the intelligent proprietors ameliorated, by enclosing with double rows of hedges and ditches, leaving a considerable space between, to be filled up with young trees, adapted to the climate. This has served the double purpose of enriching the soil, and rendering the appearance of the country more beautiful. One proprietor in particular, has improved his grounds on the best principles of agriculture; and he has succeeded in raising turnips, and in a proper rotation of crops.

Oats,

Oats, potatoes, flax, barley, peas, and turnips, are raised in this parish. The grain most generally attended to, is oats; the average produce of which may be from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 bolls an acre. When the ground happens to be laid down with grass seeds, the prevailing crop is rye grass. Of this, there are two kinds, an annual and a perennial. The former gives a double quantity of grass the first year, which is thought in most cases, to compensate the continuance of the other. A considerable quantity of rye grass seed is preserved; and besides what is sufficient for next year's sowing, there are frequently in good years, from 300 to 400 bolls sold out of the parish.

There are considerably more horses reared than supply the wants of agriculture; and the rent is most commonly paid from the sale of cattle. The high grounds in the south and west parts of the parish, are divided into 15 sheep farms; and it is conjectured, that the whole lands employed in this manner, may maintain about 6000 sheep.

The ploughing is now most frequently carried on by two horses, and Small's plough has been introduced; while, at the same time, a great many of the old farmers regret the desuetude of the old Scots plough, and a greater number of horses; and affirm that their soil requires a deep and large furrow. It is scarcely possible to make any conjecture, with respect to the rent of arable ground; because the greater number of farms have some outfield or moss, or moor, connected with them. Were it otherwise, perhaps the ordinary rate of arable ground would be from 12s. to 20s. an acre. The size of farms is scarcely in any instance greater than what is necessary to support a family; and almost every attempt to accumulate this kind of property in this parish, has brought ruin on the projector.

Character

Character and Manners of the People.—In almost every instance, the local situations of men form their characters. The inhabitants of this parish are much excluded from the commerce of the world, and nearly on the same level with regard to each other; their attention is directed to few objects, and hence they are simple and unaffected in their manners; while they possess a wonderful degree of sagacity and acuteness, in every thing connected with the circle of their pursuits. From the great number of small farms, every individual may look forward to an establishment in life; and hence his attention to business and industry is excited. In this state of society, it must be confessed, there is little scope for that ambition, which impels a man to rise above his humble sphere; but this situation supposes contentment and happiness. From this circumstance too, it may be mentioned, as a character of this people, that the advantages which they cannot secure to themselves, they wish to convey to their children; and it has been observed, that a greater number of this parish have been designed for the church, than, perhaps, of any ten parishes of equal extent in a highly cultivated country, and in a given time. The great bulk of the inhabitants of this parish have a considerable share of religious knowledge, and a becoming fervency in their devotion. It is hoped, that they will not be charged with singularity of manners, when we mention, that there are not perhaps six families in this parish, who do not daily, and in a family capacity, assemble together to acknowledge the Author of their mercies. Altogether detached from the capital, they are unacquainted with its vices. Drunkenness, and debauchery of all sorts are scarcely known; and there are very few instances of men continuing unmarried, who have the means of supporting a family. This parish has been particularly blamed with disaffection to the present constitution.

tion. From the state of society in which they are placed, the representation of any kind of oppression, whether real or imaginary, is apt to affect their minds. This, however, is but a momentary impulse; for, when they find that the chief articles of life, by which they are supported, are not the subject of taxation; and that what they bring to the market, is raised in its value, by the very system of which they are taught to complain, the good sense of the parish is soon brought to prevail over the designs of those who would mislead them.

Population Table.

	Families.	Souls.	Under 9 years old.	Males.	Females.	Seceders.
Heritors -	11	70	1	31	38	26
Farmers -	65	406	66	185	155	163
Cottagers -	25	107	29	40	38	24
Day-labourers	26	102	30	34	38	21
Widows -	40	67	3	6	58	7
Inn-keeper -	1	5	0	3	2	7
Smiths -	3	14	2	6	6	11
Coopers -	2	6	2	3	1	4
Flax-dresser -	1	5	3	1	1	0
Wrights & Masons	7	33	8	14	11	20
Weavers -	8	32	5	15	12	5
Carriers -	6	17	0	8	9	9
Shoe-makers -	7	29	6	12	11	18
Millers -	3	10	3	4	3	0
Tailors -	4	18	4	9	5	6
Minister -	1	8	2	2	4	0
Schoolmaster -	1	4	2	1	1	0
Not included in the above table. }	10	35	3	15	17	7
	221	968	169	389	410	321

From

From the above table of population, it appears, that the average number to a family, is 4 and near $\frac{4}{8}$; and that the males and females, are as 16 to 17. In the account of Seceders, none are reckoned below 9 years of age*. Of those Seceders, 142 are Antiburghers, 169 Burghers, 7 are connected with the presbytery of Relief, and 3 are Cameronians.

The causes of separation from the established church have been extremely various in this parish. In consequence of the last settlement, from 40 to 50 persons, have joined the Secession. Of those separated from the church for the last 10 years before this period, the strictness of the church discipline seems to have been the chief cause.

Ecclesiastical State of the Parish.—This parish, previous to the year 1646, was a part of the parish of Mid-Calder, and had a chapel belonging to it, at a place which still retains the name of Chapelton; about a mile east from the village of West-Calder. The present proprietor, (Mr Gloag), has now in his possession a large hollow stone, which seems to have been the font of the chapel.

In the year 1647, the commissioners for the plantation of kirks, and valuation of teinds, valued the teinds of the parish of Calder Comitis, which included the parishes of Mid and West-Calders; and allocated the whole teinds as stipend to the ministers of the two parishes. The minister's stipend is paid in money, and amounts to 800 merks; together with 50 merks for communion elements, and 30 merks for grass. In addition to this, the glebe consists of twenty Scots acres.

B b 2

Schools.

* The numbers stated of this parish in 1755, were 2396; no more than 1289, are now mentioned. But as none are here reckoned among the Seceders below 9 years of age, the diminution must in some degree, be attributed to this circumstance.

Schools.—The parish school has generally attending it from 50 to 70 scholars. Of these, from 6 to 10 are receiving the rudiments of a classical education. The school fees, are 1 shilling per quarter for English, 1s 6d for writing, 2s for Arithmetic, and 2s 6d for Latin. The school-master's salary, is L. 5 : 5 : 7d $\frac{1}{4}$, and he has twenty shillings more yearly, by a mortification. But a respectable number of the heritors have lately agreed to augment the salary, by a voluntary contribution, to continue during their pleasure. Besides the established school, there are several others in the parish. One of these has been lately erected, by one or two of the small heritors, in opposition to the parish school. The rest are occasional and ambulatory, consisting of the children of a dozen or more parents in the same neighbourhood; who, on account of their distance from the public school, are compelled to hire a teacher for their own families.

Antiquities.—Towards the southern extremity of this parish, there is an old castle, which is reported to have been fortified by Cromwell, to repress the depredations of the moss troopers. On the west part of Hayfield estate, there was, a few years ago, the remains of an old camp, known by the name of Cromwell-wit. This is now converted into a corn-field; and it remains altogether uncertain, whether the name was given as a mark of Cromwell's understanding in the choice of the situation, or as a proof of his folly; although the last appears more probable.

About two miles due south, there is on the top of a rising ground called Castle Graig, the remains of a small Roman camp, in a pretty entire state. Within a few years, several Roman coins have been dug up from the environs of this encampment, on which the Roman eagle was sufficiently apparent,

parent, but the circumstances which could lead to the period at which they were coined, were completely effaced. Excepting this circumstance there are no proofs of ancient population within this district.

There are a few names of places, as Brieche, Cobbershaw, and Polbeth, which seem to be of Gaelic derivation. But in every instance where a Gaelic name is employed, there is a river, or a morass, or a wood, to which the name might have been given before the country was inhabited. In all other instances, the names of places, farm houses, &c. are in the old Scottish dialect, and indicate a recent date. The following names may be mentioned as examples; Blackmire, Heugh-head, Slate-heugh, Birny-hill, Moss-end, Rashie-hill, Back-i-the-moss, Stank-head, Whitesykes, and Turnimoon.

Coal, &c.—The greater part of this parish most probably stands on coal. It has been dug for in various places, but never to much advantage, except at Longford, on the estate of Mr Douglas of Baads. The working of this coal has been discontinued for many years. But we understand, that the proprietor has now given a lease; and some attempts have been already made to find out the best place for erecting an engine.

Limestone is also found here in great abundance. One great lime-work at Limefield is now nearly exhausted. The stratum of limestone seems to have been in thickness about nine or ten feet, with a free-stone roof, and a dip of one foot in three. Great pillars have been left to support the roof, and the limestone has been every where wrought down to the level. By this means an excavation has been formed worthy of the attention of the curious observer.

Parish

Parish Register.—No precise account can be given from the session records of marriages, or births, or funerals.

Diseases, &c.—The only diseases peculiar to this parish are fluxes, and intermitting fevers, in the end of autumn. There are very few instances of inoculation, and the reason against it, is altogether the religious one, of not bringing on diseases before the appointed time. This parish is sufficiently healthy, and there may be alive at present about 8 persons from eighty to ninety years of age.

Poor Funds.—The funds for supplying the poor of this parish arise from the weekly collections, from the mort-cloth money, from 2s. 6d. given at each marriage, and from the interest of a bond for L. 100. The mort-cloth and marriage money, have been nearly the same for fifty years past. The following table will show the increase of collections since the year 1743. The sum following the different years, is for six months in the summer and autumn.

In 1743	-	-	£. 5	11	1
1773	-	-	6	3	9
1783	-	-	10	10	1½
1793	-	-	9	16	5
1794	-	-	10	8	4

The number who receive charity from the poor's funds, is from 10 to 15, and the sum given to each of them is at an average 3s. per month.

NUMBER

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF EASTWOOD.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

By the Rev. Mr STEVENSON M'GILL.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE parish of Eastwood lies about three miles S. W. from the town of Glasgow, surrounded by the parishes of Cathcart, Mearns, Nielston, Paisley, and Govan. The greatest length of it may be about four miles, the breadth of it about three ; but its form is very irregular, so that its dimensions in different quarters greatly vary.

A very populous village, named Pollock-shaws, lies in that part of the parish which approaches Glasgow. It is situated in a fine valley, interspersed with trees, and watered by the river Cart and Auldhouse burn. On the one side, it is skirted with neat bleachfields in constant verdure ; on the other, with well cultivated inclosures ; and affords from the surrounding eminence, a delightful prospect of a manufacturing yet rural village.

In its general appearance, the parish of Eastwood presents all that fine variety for which this part of the county of Renfrew is distinguished. The little hills rejoicing on every side, have

have their brows adorned with plantations or natural woods. A number of small rivers wander among the vallies; but chiefly the Cart, swelled with a variety of rivulets, pursues among them its course, till passing with many windings by the house of Pollock, it enters near the bottom of Crockston the Abbey parish of Paisley.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil is various; in some parts light, in others heavy; but excepting a tract on the south side, which is tilly and barren, it is in general fertile. The lands are well inclosed; and the face of the fields affords ample proof, that the knowledge and the industry of the farmer have, during the last twenty years, greatly increased.

The mode of farming is similar to that which has been described in the accounts of neighbouring parishes. Potatoe farming seems to be particularly cultivated here, and to be well understood. Horse-hoeing is the method most commonly followed, and where the grounds are light and dry is followed with great success. Sir John Maxwell sold in 1793 some fields of potatoes at L. 12 : 10 per acre, yet the persons in the village who purchased them, after all expences were deducted, had them at $4\frac{1}{4}$ per peck of the Renfrew measure. Dr Smith in his *Wealth of Nations*, strongly recommends the cultivation of potatoes as a cheap and healthful food. The porters of London, he observes, are among the strongest men in the world, and they being almost all of the Irish nation, have been chiefly fed upon potatoes. He insists too, that they are equally conducive to good looks, and as examples, mentions the women of the same nation. It might be added, that no food is more universally acceptable to the taste, or is capable of being used in a greater variety of forms. Might not the improvement of it be considerably assisted by attending more to the kinds which should be cultivated,

vated, ascertaining more clearly than has yet been done, their different qualities, and appropriating each kind to its proper soil.

The neighbourhood of large manufacturing towns renders the market to the farmers of this parish ready and certain. But the price of meal not having increased in the same proportion with that of the other articles of life, and with the price of labour, some intelligent persons have begun to lay down their farms chiefly in grass. In general, about one third is in tillage, and two thirds in pasture. There are kept about 80 horses, and 350 cows, but seldom any sheep.

Whether the introduction of manufactures into the parish has contributed to the improvement of its agriculture, it is not easy precisely to ascertain. The probability is, that it has contributed to it, though not perhaps in that degree which the theories of philosophers would lead us to expect. The addition made to the number of inhabitants, must increase the demand for several of the articles of living. This leads to industry and the desire of improvement. The wealth of the farmer increases; and, he has both sufficient means and inducements to cultivate his grounds to the utmost. This mode of arguing is natural; but by fixing our attention upon one view of an object, other views equally natural and just are apt to be forgotten. Circumstances frequently exist of an opposite tendency; which, if they do not counterbalance, at least considerably counteract the beneficial effects of manufactures upon husbandry. By their neighbourhood the price of labour is increased. In order to procure labourers, the farmer must render the wages of his servants equal to those given by the manufacturer. A more expensive style of dress and living generally prevails where the price of labour is high. And the landlord finding his expences in-

Vol. XVIII, C c creating

creasing from the same causes, naturally thinks of raising the rent of his land. These circumstances diminish the surplus of profit which remains to the farmer, and consequently lessen his ability for extensive improvement. It is farther to be remarked, that the value of many articles of life does not actually rise with the neighbourhood of manufactures and with the population of a parish. The price of meal is not higher in Renfrewshire at present than it was thirty years ago, when manufactures were in their infancy. To give advantage to the farmer, much depends also on the kind of food for which the people have a taste. If they shall chuse to live chiefly on butcher meat, the advantage of their neighbourhood must be greatly diminished, because such food can be as easily afforded from a considerable distance, as from the immediate vicinage. To this must be added, that manufactures, by affording a greater and quicker profit, tempt men to employ their money, genius, and chief attention in those more alluring branches of industry, while the flower and smaller profits of agriculture are apt to be undervalued. These are some of the disadvantages to the farmers attending the neighbourhood of manufactures; though it is not asserted, that they are sufficient to counterbalance their good effects. They are disadvantages, too, which it should be remembered, are not always attached to the neighbourhood of manufactures. Manufactures may be flourishing, when the manufacturer is fully supplied with hands, and when his manufacture will not admit of more active capital, than he has already employed. In this situation, the persons who cannot find employment from him, will offer themselves at a moderate price to the farmer; the wealth which the manufactures have produced, but cannot employ, will be expended on the improvement

ment of land ; and the manufacturer himself will carry into this new line of business, that spirit of enterprize, and those active habits, which distinguish him in his own profession.

These observations might be extended to the general effects of manufacturers upon a nation. Writers have commonly considered it as a settled point, that population must always increase with the increase of wealth, and that improvement in agriculture must always correspond with the increase of population. But both these principles require great limitation. The population of a country does not necessarily increase with the increase of wealth. Abundance of provision, is without doubt a necessary requisite in order to an increase of population. But it is equally necessary, that this abundance should be properly applied. Without attention to this, no surplus may remain for an increase of inhabitants ; nay the abundance may prove the mean of decrease and imbecillity. A nation may in this respect be in the same state as an individual. A person who is accustomed to a certain style of life, though he may have abundance in the abstract, yet from his habits he may consume upon himself what would have provided for a numerous offspring. He is therefore in the same situation as if he were really in a state of poverty. If he shall marry, his habits and mode of life may be unfavourable both to the number and the health of his offspring. While the labouring man rears ten or twelve healthy children, the children of the luxurious, fewer in number, are often reared with difficulty, and are at last both weak and unhealthy. This may certainly be the state of a nation. If from any circumstances, the body of the people acquire a taste for luxurious living and dissipated pleasures, or spend their days in unhealthy occupations, the nation may

be in poverty in the midst of abundance, and rear both fewer and more weakly children than when it nursed them in a more hardy and steril soil, and under a more inclement and unsettled sky.

Neither will improvement in agriculture always correspond with an increase of population. If from sterility of soil and the high price of labour, the merchant can import grain from foreign countries cheaper than the farmer can raise it; or if the genius and industry of the country pursue with a strong bent a tract different from agriculture, may not the cultivation of our own fields be neglected, and the nation be reduced to depend on other countries for its sustenance? This is an evil which may in time remedy itself. Yet inconveniences may arise in the interval; and, it is still an object of attention, that the general assertion, that agriculture must always improve with the increase of population and manufactures, is too unqualified, and ought not always to be considered as indisputable by philosophers and legislators.

The average of land is about L. 1 per acre. Grounds in the neighbourhood of Pollock which had been for some time in lee, have frequently been let for two years at L. 6:10 per acre. The valued rent of the parish, is about L. 3300 Scots money; the real rent, it is believed, about L. 3400 sterling. This is divided among five landed proprietors; among whom this parish has the happiness of numbering the two aunts of the present patron, Mrs Montgomery of Auldhouse, and her sister Miss Maxwell; whose residence diffuses blessings on their neighbourhood, and who are the distinguished, though unaffected examples of every virtue and of every duty.

Natural

Natural History.—The natural historian will find, in several parts of this parish, objects meriting his attention. In the neighbourhood of Thornlie-bank, a small village, there is a stratum of schistus, which has particularly attracted notice. It is a good many yards in thickness, and contains a great variety of marine productions, in a petrified state. Specimens of several genera of shells are found in fine preservation. The orthoceratites both plane and fulcated, retain the original shell; a circumstance which rarely occurs in natural history. The specimens of shells, &c. are filled with iron stone, containing a proportion of lime. Many nodules of iron stone of different shapes and dimensions, are imbedded in the stratum of schistus*.

Manufactures.—The manufactures carried on, are chiefly the weaving of muslins, bleaching, printing of calicoes, and cotton spinning. In the weaving branches, there were employed, in 1793, about 470 looms: In printing, bleaching, and the occupations connected with them, about 226 men and boys, and 174 women. There are also two cotton mills in the parish, which at the same period, employed above 600 persons of different ages. The principal print-field here is among the oldest in Scotland. The parish seems well adapted to manufactures; and in general, the people are more healthy than those usually are who follow such occupations. This may be owing in part, to the fresh currents of air, which blow frequently with considerable strength betwixt the surrounding heights; and very much to the tradesman mingling sometimes with his sedentary employment, the exhilarating and healthful exercises of the garden and the field.

Population.

* Mr David Ure.

Population.—The population of this parish, in 1793, when its numbers were taken, amounted to 2642 young and old persons, divided into 558 families. Of this number 1349 are males, 1293 females. Below 10 years of age, 361 are males, 351 females; below 20, 352 are males, 304 females; below 50, 505 are males, 480 females; below 70, 106 are males, 136 females; below 100, 25 are males, and 22 are females. The average number of persons to each family is somewhat more than $4\frac{2}{3}$. During ten years preceeding 1704, it appears by the register of the parish, there were 219 baptisms, and 81 marriages. During the same period, preceding 1793, there were 795 baptisms, and 234 marriages. The average of births in a year, during the first period, is about 22; during the last period, 79. Supposing the proportion betwixt births, and the whole population, to have been the same in each period, the numbers will have been tripled in the course of one hundred years. In the births of the first ten years, there are 121 males, and 98 females. In the births of the last ten years, there are 402 males, 393 females. The births of last year were 94; the proportion between the births and the whole population in that year, was near as one to $28\frac{1}{3}$.

Church School, &c.—The patronage of the parish belongs to the family of Nether-pollok. The stipend is 5 chalders of meal, 1 chalder of bear, 300 merks of money, 100 merks for communion elements. The glebe, including the ground occupied by the manse, offices and garden, is believed to consist of about 5 acres. There is no land allotted for pasture. The manse has been lately re-built. It is a commodious handsome house, and is very pleasantly situated. The manses which have been lately built in this neighbourhood, have, in general, shewn the heritors of the country to be actuated by sentiments

sentiments at once suited to the liberal spirit of gentlemen, and respectful to the office and character of the ministers of religion. The church was a few years ago also re-built. At that time it was removed from the neighbourhood of the manse, to a situation nearer to Pollok-shaws. It is now beautifully situated upon a rising ground above the village, and is one of the neatest country churches within the district. The school-house too was lately re-built, and equally with the other public buildings, does honour to the heritors of the parish. The number of scholars is 105: Of this number, 36 are taught reading of English, 23 writing, 18 arithmetic, 4 book-keeping, 2 mathematicks, and 22 Latin. Among these 17 boarders are included. There is an annual examination of the school, which is attended by the principal persons of the parish, and a number of the ministers and gentlemen of the neighbourhood. On this occasion, prizes of useful books are distributed among the young people. Occasional examinations when the scholars have no previous information also take place. These methods seem well calculated to excite emulation, and vigorous exertion; and the appearance of the scholars] has hitherto done credit to their teacher. The salary of the master, is L. 100 Scots, with a free house and garden. He enjoys also the emoluments arising from being clerk to the Session. The fees of the school are, for Latin 4s, Arithmetic 3s, Mathematicks 5s, writing 2s 6d, English 2s per quarter, for perfecting in book-keeping, L. 1 : 1. The terms for boarding, washing and education, are L. 20 *per annum*.

Poor.—The number of enrolled poor is 24. But about 10 necessitous persons besides these, are occasionally supplied every month. The funds for supplying the poor are the weekly collections at the church, the product of mort-cloths,

cloths, and the interest of about L. 500 of mortified money. The average of disbursements during the last ten years, is L. 74:2. The Session educates besides 8 poor children. Various charitable societies are also instituted throughout the parish. The object of these is to assist such persons in distress, or their widows and children, as have contributed when in health, a certain annual sum to the funds of that society to which they belong. They seem calculated to do much good, and annually disburse considerable sums. No beggars belong to this parish; but this want is abundantly supplied from the suburbs of Glasgow. Were the laws against vagrants put in execution, and were every parish obliged to maintain its own poor, the real objects of charity would be much better provided than they are, and much idleness and worthlessness would be prevented. The money given to vagrants is often not a relief to the poor, but an encouragement to vice; whereas, when the poor are confined to their own parish, which is obliged by law to maintain them, our charity is bestowed only upon proper objects, with whose case we are acquainted, and in whom we are more interested. The money given to vagrants diminishes, besides, our *ability* to relieve the truly necessitous. If a person can spare ten pounds each year to the indigent, and gives one half of this to vagrants, he takes five pounds from the funds of the miserable; and by means of it perhaps encourages idleness, drunkenness, and debauchery.

The Session meets regularly on the first monday of every month. The whole disbursements are examined annually, at a meeting composed jointly of the heritors and the Session; a practice which is satisfactory to the minds of all parties, and by which any subject which seems to be of importance to the interests of the parish, can be considered with advantage and effect.

Parish

Parish Records.—The records of Session extend back to the year 1689. They contain, frequently, circumstances which mark the peculiar manners of former times. In the earlier periods, the meetings of Session were seldom held. The good morals which prevailed, it is presumed, rendered frequent meetings unnecessary. This is the more remarkable, when it is considered that every species of vice, and even of impropriety, were subjects of cognizance. Sometimes too, we find their attention directed to objects which will appear to the present age, of a singular kind. A woman is related for using charms at Hallow-even; who, to use the words of the record, confesses, “That at the instigation of an old woman from Ireland, she brought in a pint of water from a well which brides and burials pass over, and dipt her shirt into it, and hung it before the fire; that she either dreamed, or else there came something and turned about the chair on which her shirt was, but she *could not well see what it was.*” Upon this, she was ordered to be rebuked before the congregation. Let not the wisdom of our fathers however be treated on such accounts lightly. The innocence or guilt of all actions depends much upon the views which governed the actor. What may be now mere amusement, when it was performed under the belief of incantation, and with a view to the agency of evil spirits, was a proper subject of animadversion to those whose duty it was to watch over the moral and religious conduct of the people. In different meetings of Session, and among the elders, are to be found the names of Lord Pollok, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and his nephew and heir Sir John Maxwell; and, it is related of them, that they conceived it to be their honour, as well as their duty, to support in that parish over which they had influence, the cause of religion, and her constant attendants, decency, order, and true happiness.

The ancient family of Nether-pollok has been long the principal family in this parish. It has in its possession several original papers of considerable antiquity, which deserve attention. Among these, the chief which the writer of this account has had an opportunity of observing, are the following: A precept from the Lords of Council of King James V. to meet his Queen when she came first to Scotland, dated 1527; a letter from Q. Mary Regent, 1559; a letter from Morton and others, anent the murder of the King, 1567; a letter from Q. Mary, before the battle of Langside; a letter from King James for an hackney to the Queen, 1590; another for provision to the Prince's baptism, in 1594; and the original, with the subscriptions of the first solemn league, signed by the King and Council, 1587. The letter from King James, for provision to the Prince's baptism, is a great curiosity, and deserves to be made public, as affording a singular picture of the times. The original of the solemn league, is written with great distinctness and beauty, in a character resembling Italic print; and can be read with as much facility, as the most modern writing. The solemn league was at first a deed dictated by wisdom, and a just zeal for our dearest interests; but the peculiarities of a party which were afterwards associated with it, and which by many, are considered as having belonged to the original transaction, have brought it into disrepute.

There have been five ministers in this parish, besides the present incumbent, since the Revolution. It is singular that two of these, namely, Mr Crawford, and Mr Wodrow, have written histories of the Church of Scotland. The history written by Mr Wodrow is universally known. He was born about the year 1680, and died in 1734. Besides his worth as a minister, he was a man of extraordinary industry and application, to such researches as were connected with the

the antiquities of Scotland. He had made a large collection of pamphlets and manuscripts. He wrote a great deal; and particularly employed himself during the last years of his life, in writing the lives of the principal learned men of Scotland, whether gentlemen, ministers, or bishops; who lived before the period at which his history commences. Some of his manuscripts with the materials relating to them, are now in the library of the faculty of Advocates. Some of them are in the repositories of the Church; and some part of them, his biography in particular, is still in the hands of his descendants. He was among the first who attended to natural history in this country; and he left behind him a small museum of fossils, chiefly collected from his own parish, and also a collection of medals. The church history of Mr Crawford has never been published, and therefore the writer of this account has been at pains to procure some information respecting it. The manuscript is in the possession of the church. It consists of two volumes folio, containing upwards of 1400 pages. Prefixed to the history is a short life of the author. From this life it appears, that he was a native of Greenock; that he obtained the degree of A. M. in the College of Edinburgh, and that by the patronage of Mr John Carstairs, one of the ministers of Glasgow, he was sent to Utrecht. There he studied two years, wrote several treatises, chiefly controversial, and maintained some public disputations. In the year 1671, he was licensed at Glasgow, to preach the Gospel, by a meeting of Clergymen, held for the purpose in a secret manner, in order to avoid the penalties denounced at that time against the presbyterian non-conformists. In 1671 he was, with the consent of Sir John Maxwell, privately ordained minister of Eastwood at Paisley. Enjoying the friendship of the family of Pollok, he often in those perilous times preached to such persons as ventured

to assemble in the house of his patron. Though frequently searched for, he had the good fortune to escape falling into the hands of his persecutors; but his patron was subjected to severe distresses, on account of the protection which he afforded him. After the accession of King William, he bore a principal part in arranging and settling the affairs of the church. His history commences with the introduction of Christianity into Scotland, and ends at the year 1680. He appears to describe at great length, the occurrences both civil and ecclesiastical, which took place in the reigns of Charles I. and II. The wars which the first carried on against his parliament, and the persecution with which the last so long harassed the Presbyterians, compose a great part of the second volume. I shall take the liberty of transcribing the two following passages from his book. “ About the end of
 “ this year (1664) appeared a great comet, which continued
 “ a great time; after which ensued the plague, and the Dutch
 “ war. Some said that when faithful ministers were discharged
 “ preaching, God set a preacher in the heavens, which no
 “ bishop could depose. In March 1665, appeared another co-
 “ met, moving from the north-east, to the south-west, conti-
 “ nuing visible for 20 days together. This spring there was
 “ such frost and snow, that there was no tillage from the
 “ end of December, to the 13th of March*.” After giving
 an account of the murder of the Arch-bishop of St Andrews,
 he observes, “ Good men, although they did adore the righ-
 “ teous judgement of God, in taking away such an enemy at
 “ such a time, yet they did not approve the manner of the
 “ taking away of his life; and many had these verses in their
 “ mouth, made by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, on the
 “ death of Cardinal Beaton :

“ As

* Would not this remark indicate, that the time of tillage was earlier at that period, than at present?

" As for the Cardinal I grant
" He was the man we might well want ;
 " God will forgive it soon ;
" But of a truth, the sooth to say
" Although the lown be well away,
 " The fact was foully done."

NUMBER

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF KILSYTH.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT RENNIE.

THIS parish consists of two baronies, the east and the west. The former for many ages has been called Monaebrugh. The latter Kilsyth; but till the year 1649, it belonged to the parish of Campsie.

Origin of the Names.—The etymology of the names is uncertain. It seems even dubious whether they are of Latin or Gaelic original. If the name Kilsyth be derived from the Latin, it may perhaps have been a compound of *cella*, a church, chapel, or burying ground, and *Cetæ*, a Romish saint. And it was certain that there was a chapel in that district; for though it is now rased to the foundation, the place still bears the name of Chapelgreen, being the site of a school.

If the name be of Gaelic original, it is most probably derived from *cuil* a cell or burying ground, and *scoth*, peace. This derivation is equally plausible as the other. For near Chapelgreen, which is almost in the centre of the west barony,

ny, there was formerly a tumulus or cairn of stones. That this tumulus was a burying ground or funeral pile, is certain; for an urn and ashes were some time ago found in it. And there is a faint tradition, that it was erected over the dead, slain in a memorable battle, fought between the natives and the Romans; which was the forerunner of a *peace*. It is but justice to say, however, that the same tradition bears, that the natives were surprized unarmed, and therefore, had recourse to the first offensive weapon that offered, which was their *scyths* or *sickles*. And from this circumstance, it is said, the district derived its name.

The etymology of *Monaebrogh*, is as uncertain. Gentlemen acquainted with the Gaelic suppose it to be a compound of *monaugh*, *hilly*, and *ebroch*, a place full of rivulets. And it must be acknowledged, that this is descriptive of the general appearance of that district. For it consists of an endless succession of hill and dale, from one end to the other, and it is intersected by a great variety of rills.

Others have supposed it to be of Latin original. If so, it is perhaps a compound of *mona*, a monk, and *Ebroch*, the name of a small rivulet which runs through this district. And in confirmation of this, there is a tradition in this parish, that a certain saint, whose name is not recorded, had a hermitage in a sequestered glen upon this very rivulet.

Situation.—The whole parish is situated in the county of Stirling. But it is the southermost extremity of it. The form of it is an irregular oblong square, running in length along the great high way, leading from Edinburgh to Glasgow, 7 miles. The breadth is nearly one half of its length. Of course, it contains nearly 24 miles square, or about 15000 acres. The rivers Carron on the north, and Kelvin on the south, Inchwood burn on the west, and the Bush burn on the east,

east, form the natural boundaries of the parish ; and it lies contiguous to Denny on the east, and Campsie on the west, to Fintry and St. Ninians on the north, and Kirkintulloch and Cumbernauld on the south: I never saw a separate map of the whole. But there is a very elegant beautiful and correct plan of the estate of Kilsyth, in the possession of the proprietor. And in the map of Stirlingshire, in Atlas Blaviana, there is a very minute and pretty accurate delineation of this parish.

The general appearance of the whole to a stranger is rather bare and bleak. A child may number the trees ; but there are a few small copse woods. The east barony has very much the appearance of a highland district or strath. Even the west is very uneven in its surface, and much in want of planting and proper inclosures. There is not a strip of planting in the parish. It forms altogether an extended strath between two lines of hills ; in so much, that at one point, it seems to be part of a great ditch, intersecting the kingdom, terminating at the Frith of Forth on the east, and Clyde on the west ; being at nearly equal distances from either. It sends several streams to both. For near the centre of the parish is the summit or highest part of the whole strath, from whence issues the Kelvin, running west, and Auchencloch burn running east. The Dullatur bog, through which they both run, is almost on a level with the water in the great canal, which cuts it into almost equal parts. And the canal is at that place 160 feet above the level of the Forth, at Grangemouth.

Though the surface of this parish is rough, broken, and uneven, being almost an uninterrupted succession of hill and dale, yet we have no mountains of any note. The highest form a part of that ridge which rises at Greenock, runs through Kilpatrick, Baldernock, Campsie, Kilsyth, and Denny,

Denny, and thus intersects the whole kingdom. To us they seem to rise to a considerable height, and to form a natural shelter from the northern blast; but none of them are more than 1200 feet above the level of the valley, or 1368 above the sea. From the summit of the highest there is one of the most extensive, beautiful, and variegated views in Scotland.

The first thing that arrests the attention, is the amazing extent of prospect that opens all around. At least part of 14, if not 16 counties, and perhaps one half of Scotland, is under the eye at one glance. Though not nearly so beautiful and variegated as that from the top of Benlomond, the view is richer, and more extensive. For, being nearly at equal distances from the Atlantic and the German oceans, the whole extent of the Island from east to west is viewed at once. Towards the south and north, the prospect is still more extensive. At a moderate calculation, the area of the whole may be 12000 miles.

The striking contrast between the Highlands and Lowlands is the next thing that attracts the attention. If you turn your eye southward from the Frith of Forth to Clyde, and from Pentland and Galloway to the Ochils and Kilpatrick hills, the whole seems one extended fertile plain; or rather, like a beautiful garden sheltered on all hands by the surrounding mountains, and divided into numberless beautiful inclosures, like the compactments of a flower garden.

Nothing can possibly be a more striking contrast to this, than the prospect to the north. For 70 or 80 miles, it appears to be an endless succession of hill upon hill, overtopping one another till they are lost in the distance of the prospect, and blended with the blue clouds or azure sky. In a foggy day, or frosty morning, the prospect is truly picturesque. Being raised entirely above the fog, the whole plain to the

fouth appears like the sea in a calm ; while the hills on the north seem to raise like islands out of the main, or like the tumultuous waves of the ocean in a storm.

Though there is scarcely a peep between any of the hills to the north, yet there is an infinite variety of scenery of every kind to the south. The friths of Forth and Clyde, with the islands they contain ; a vast variety of lakes and rivers, woods and wilds, with innumerable rich corn fields and inclosures ; the great canal, and villages, towns, cities, and shires, add beauty, variety, and grandeur to the whole.

Soil.—Where there is such an uneven surface, there must of course be a great variety of soil. In general a light sandy or gravelly bottom is most prevalent ; excepting in the rich, beautiful, and extensive valley west of the town. It consists of a rich loamy fertile soil, from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick ; and contains upwards of 600 acres. The west barony is upon the whole the richest ; approaching often to clay : the east is more gravelly. In some places the surface is almost entirely covered with small stones, from the quarter of a pound to two or three pounds weight. These, however, are not supposed to be injurious, but rather an advantage to the soil. They are said to prevent the ground from heaving and casting the seed in spring,—to shelter the tender blade in summer. They are supposed likewise to prevent the scorching rays of the sun from withering the corns,—to retain the moisture in great drought ; and, by retaining also the heat all the summer night, to promote vegetation. Perhaps the principal advantage is generally overlooked ; which is, that they throw off a kind of laminous rind or shell, like the coats of an onion, which, being mixed with calcareous earth, moulders down and meliorates the grounds. The sandy soil which prevails here, though light and shallow, is generally productive ; always easily cultivated,

and susceptible of much improvement at a moderate expence. Being naturally dry, it suits best with a wet summer; and would almost require a shower every day.

Climate.—Of course, it is very well adapted to our climate, which is rather watery. As we lie along that line of hills which reaches the Atlantic on the west, we are exposed to frequent heavy showers from that quarter; especially when the wind is westerly, which it generally is for nine months in the year. The hills at Greenock attract the clouds that rise from the Western Ocean. And, if the wind is high, it conveys them along the whole line of hills. If there is only a gentle breeze, which veers a little to the N. W. the clouds follow the line of the Clyde, and leave that of the hills at Dumbarton or Kilpatrick. This, of course, is the point to which the husbandman, in hay time and harvest, looks with eager suspense: And it is a kind of barometer which seldom fails. For, if the clouds leave the hills at Kilpatrick, and follow the line of the Clyde, we may rest assured, that we shall escape the shower; but we can seldom escape, when the clouds follow the direction of the hills.

But though the climate is in a certain degree moist, it is far from being unhealthy. The air is in general pure and salubrious; perhaps more so than either near the east or west coast. For as we lie at an equal distance from both, we are of course free from the peculiar inconveniences of either. We are seldom visited with the fogs which prevail in the east; and are not exposed to the almost incessant rains, which predominate in the west. The fogs seldom rise so high; and the clouds are often expended before they reach us. Hence, in summer and harvest the sky with us is often clear and serene; when at Greenock it is cloudy, dark, and lowering, and on the frith of Forth thick and foggy; as may be seen at a distance from our hills;

hills ; and this too not for a day or two occasionally, or in a few instances, but frequently, and for considerable periods of time.

Rivers.—The rivers in this district are not very remarkable. The Carron, both for size and classic fame, claims our first attention. It is, as its name denotes, *a winding stream* ; especially in as far as it is the boundary of this parish. The *bonny links of Carron water* are well known, and well deserve the appellation. For upwards of 3 English miles, that river runs, in a slow serpentine course, through one of the finest, richest, and most extensive meadows perhaps in Great Britain. I suppose it may contain near a thousand Scottish acres. In summer, during the hay-making, it presents one of the gayest and grandest scenes of the kind to be seen any where.

The next in order is the Kelvin. It takes its rise near the centre of this parish ; and it runs westward through the valley, in a slow, oozing, serpentine course, upwards of four English miles within this parish. Hence, it was formerly always gorged up at every turn the river took, and overgrown with flags, rushes, and water-lillies ; so that it frequently overflowed the adjacent valley, giving it the appearance of a great lake, or considerable arm of the sea. By this means, the hay in summer, and the corn in harvest, were often flooded ; and all the lands that lay within water mark were greatly injured.

About three years ago, Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. of Duntreath, who is proprietor of the lands on the north of the river for upwards of 4 miles, proposed to the heritors on the south, to have a new cut made, as wide and deep as to contain all the waters ; and as nearly in a straight line as the situation of the grounds, and the course of the river, would allow. Fully sensible of the advantages of this undertaking, and eager
to

to promote and encourage it, he generously offered to be at two thirds of the whole expence; although, in justice, it could only have been expected that the one half should have fallen to him. Yet, at first, only a few of the numerous heritors on the south, accepted even of these advantageous terms; so that, for the first summer after the contract was made, there was only a mile and three quarters of the new cut formed.

The advantages even of this partial improvement were soon experienced. The river, in place of oozing through a muddy crooked course, at the rate of a quarter of a mile in the hour, runs within the same time, with a steady equable and full current of two miles; and easily discharges all the water, without the least danger of overflowing its banks.

Even though this had been the advantage, it would have been more than sufficient to compensate the proprietors for the expence of the work. But this, though a great one, is one of the least of the advantages they now reap. Formerly the valley on both sides, being nearly on a level with the surface of the river, even when there was no flood, was of course, gorged with water; so that the meadows were almost impassable for cattle at any time. Even part of the arable lands was often almost in the same state; and was of consequence unproductive, unless in very dry seasons. At all times, the crops of hay and corn, before they could be prepared for the stack or the barn, were dragged from the fields to a dryer situation, with prodigious labour, and considerable expence; and what was of as much consequence, with great loss of time. Now it is otherwise, the cattle have access to the meadows at all times. Even in winter, when they were formerly like one continued lake, they are now fit for pasture. And in summer, the hay may be made where it grows, and waggons drive along the grounds which were formerly a *swamp*. As there is a fall of about 18 feet in the course of the

the whole new cut, and as it is generally four, though in many places six feet below the surface of the adjacent grounds, it serves as a *general drain* to the whole valley. So that every furrow which was formerly a little water ditch, and every ditch which was formerly gorged up to the brink, is, or may be easily drained; by this means, 300 acres of meadow may be turned into arable land; 60 acres of moss into meadow, and 500 acres of the finest arable land in the parish, may be rendered of double value, in the course of a few years; and that too, at very little expence.

These advantages were seen by all the moment the first part of the cut was finished. So that it was an easy matter to procure the concurrence of all the heritors of the south, for extending it nearly two miles farther, the following summer; and that too, upon more equal terms. Of course, the advantages arising from the work were extended in proportion.

The plan was formed, and executed under the inspection of Mr Robert Whitworth-Engineer. And like all his other undertakings in this country, gave great and general satisfaction. To prevent all disputes, and if possible any law suit, two arbiters were mutually chosen by the heritors on the south and north, to mark out the line of the new cut, in consistency with the plan proposed, to judge of and determine any difference, and to ascertain the comparative value of any little parcel of ground that fell to be exchanged, or to be sold,

The dimensions of the cut are various, in proportion to the quantity of water it receives. For a mile at the top, where there is only a small river, it is only from 18 to 20 feet wide at the surface, by 10 or 12 at the bottom. But as it receives new accessions of water, it was proportionally enlarged. So that the second mile, it is 22 or 24 at the top,
by

by 14 or 16 at the bottom. And the lowest and remaining part of it, is 28 by 16 or 18. Of course, the whole cut is of a regular form, sloping gradually on each side, and happily proportioned to the quantity of water it is meant to discharge.

The expence of the whole was not above L. 600 sterling; a sum which is indeed very inconsiderable, when compared with the advantages of the work. The same contractor undertook both parts of the cut, but at different prices. The first part he engaged to cut for 2d a cubic yard. But in that case, he was not bound to form the banks into a regular sloping ridge, but only to lay down the earth regularly, at least a yard distant from the edge of the cut. And it was understood, that each tenant or proprietor, would at his leisure, and at very small expence, form it into a regular bank. As this was neglected by many, it was therefore judged most adviseable, to contract not only for cutting the remaining part, but for forming the banks. Of course, 2d $\frac{1}{4}$ the cubic yard was offered, and accepted: and as the whole course was either a fine rich solid mould, from two to three feet deep, or a stiff clay mixed with moss, it was found to be a reasonable allowance. The bank on either side is three feet from the edge of the cut, and for the most part upwards of three feet high. And as they slope equally both ways like a ridge, they may be ploughed at pleasure, or sown with grass-seeds. If at any future period it should be necessary, they may easily be raised a foot or two feet higher at the summit; leaving a water course, of from 30 to 40 feet wide, from bank to bank, so as to contain double the quantity of water. For one foot at top would nearly contain as much as four at bottom.

It may be worthy of observation, that as soon as the work was contracted for, numbers from England and Ireland, as well

well as Scotland, flocked to it. So that it was finished in the course of a few months. The Scotch and Irish for the most part, used the spade and wheel-barrow; and by their amazing perseverance, working from sun rise, till sun set, they made great wages, and greatly expedited the work. But in wet weather they were much retarded. The planks became slippery, their spades and wheel-barrowes were all clogged over with mud and clay, so as to become very cumbersome. Though they excelled the English at other times, by their perseverance, they were in wet weather far behind. For the English seldom or never used the barrow; but only a light narrow spade, about 18 inches long, and 6 inches wide; and scooped or hollowed out in the mouth. With this they threw out wedges of earth and clay, from the deepest part of the cut, over their shoulder, with the greatest ease and expedition, to the distance of 6 or 10 yards. This appeared to me a simple, safe, and very expeditious method; and peculiarly adapted to such a work, in such a soil.

The whole cut has now the appearance of a small canal. And if the banks were planted with willows, or even one hedge row of them, they would soon adorn the whole plain; and become a valuable article to the proprietors.

Excepting these two rivers, there are none else in this parish; though there is a variety of rills, rivulets and burns. The most remarkable of these is the Garrel burn. This, as its name denotes, is a *rough, rapid, turbulent stream*. Its whole course is in this parish, and does not exceed 4 miles. Yet in a mile and a half, it falls nearly 1000 feet. So that there is a great number of cataraets, and water falls in its course. But though very romantic, and even awful in times of a great flood, yet as none of them are above 50 feet perpendicular, they are not very distinguished.

This

This burn formerly poured all its stream into the Kelvin; after running close by the north side of the town. But about 25 years ago, it was carried off by the canal company, by a small canal, about a quarter of a mile above the town, into a large reservoir about a mile to the east.

The remaining burns are small in comparison with this. And they are only distinguished by the great number and variety of water falls, and milns erected upon them.

The Inchwood burn is the boundary of this parish on the west. Next to that, is the Quinzie burn, on which there is a lint and a corn miln. On the Garrel burn, there is a fullers miln, a lint and a buffing, a meal and a barley miln.

In the east barony there is Shaw-end burn; on which there is a threshing miln near its source, and a lint and buffing, a barley, a corn, and a snuff miln farther down, and below the great reservoir. Near the eastern extremity of the parish, is Auchincloch burn; on which there is in the course of 60 yards, three lint milns, three buffing milns, and a corn miln; and all of them, are well supplied with water.

Bridges.—It is almost unnecessary to say, that along the course of the great high road to Glasgow, there are bridges across all those rivulets. On Inchwood-burn, at Inchwood; on Quinzie burn, at a farm house of that name; on Garrel burn, at the town of Kilsyth; on Shaw-end-burn, at Shaw-end; and on Auchincloch-burn, at Auchincloch. Along the same line of road, there is a number of smaller arches, thrown over the several rivulets that cross it; which scarcely deserve to be mentioned. But the bridge of Carron over that river; and of Auchinstenie over the Kelvin, are the largest, and by much the most remarkable within the parish. The former consists of one large and a small arch. The latter of six small arches. Of course its appearance is rather singular,

and it has something of the air of antiquity about it. Perhaps it is not unlike some of the Roman aqueducts.

For this reason, several distinguished antiquarians of rank and literature have supposed it to be a Roman bridge. As far as I could learn, they have been disposed to be of this opinion, principally, because it is within half a mile of the great Roman wall, precisely at an equal distance from the east and west end of it, across the valley, which was the boundary of their dominions; and at the only narrow place over which a bridge could conveniently be thrown; at least if that valley, as was supposed, was at that time either an extended lake or impassable morafs.

Besides these extrinsic circumstances, the bridge was supposed to bear in itself evident marks of its being a Roman antique. It was narrow, being only about 9 feet wide; it had no edges, at least, none above 4 inches high; and above all, it had a *femita* or foot-path, of hewn stone, about 10 inches wide on either side.

But all these circumstances put together, though in the eyes of an antiquarian they may seem to amount nearly to demonstration, must give way to stubborn facts.

In cutting the course of the Kelvin, not 20 yards below this bridge, there was found the remains of a paved ford or causeway, built together with wood, which was still entire; a few horses shoes, and pieces of iron were found in it. This revived the general suspicion, that the bridge was not so old as was supposed; and a tradition that about 100 years ago a man and horse perished in passing this ford. But what put the matter beyond the possibility of a doubt, and confirms the above tradition is, that among the late Lord Kilsyth's old papers, of which I shall have occasion to speak afterwards, I find that his Lordship made application to the quarter Sessions at Stirling, in the year 1670, for money to erect

erect a bridge across the Kelvin, at Auchinsterrie. In these papers the precise sum is stated, the name of the mason who built the bridge, is likewise mentioned; and there are people alive, who recollect to have seen a stone on the west edge of the bridge, with the above date upon it.

Lakes, &c.—There are no natural lakes in this parish. But the great reservoir above mentioned, is perhaps one of the largest and most beautiful artificial sheets of water in the kingdom. It is of an oval form, fully three quarters of a mile long, and somewhat less than half a mile in breadth; and it covers upwards of 70 acres. The country around it is rugged and uneven, and gives the whole a romantic air. A few firs are planted at the east end, and in an island near the west end of the lake. They thrive very well, and add variety and beauty to the whole. The expence of this work was very inconsiderable, in comparison of the surface and quantity of water it contains. It was originally an extensive hollow, as if scooped out for the purpose, by the hand of nature. At one place only, there was a deep opening, about 100 feet wide at the bottom, and 200 yards at the top. By filling this up to the height of about 25 feet, the work was at once completed. And by leaving a sluice in the centre, it can be filled or emptied at pleasure. The whole is finished in a masterly and ingenious manner.

This lake abounds with fish: and, if it were not occasionally let out in the drought of summer to supply the great canal, it would furnish abundance of perch and trout at all times, and of the very best quality. The lade that runs from it, and communicates with the canal, is one of the best streams for trouting in the parish: but it is only a stream; and therefore not to be compared with the river Carron. This, in its whole extent, from its rise till it reaches the

Forth, is one of the finest rivers in Scotland. The quantity, quality, and size of the trout,—the endless variety of pools and streams,—and the openness of its banks, all concur in rendering it the favourite retreat of the angler: In so much, that people of all ranks, and from a considerable distance, resort to it in the fishing season; and there is scarcely a peasant or shepherd on its banks, who is not eager in pursuit of this amusement, and eminent in the art. Where the river is rapid and turbulent, and of a clear channelly bottom, the fishes are smaller and whiter after being dressed: but in the larger and deeper pools, especially as far as it is the boundary of this parish, where it is for the most part a large, deep, winding river, they are redder when dressed, and darker when caught, and much larger in size. I have seen them two, three, and even four pounds weight; and from 18 to 24 inches long, and full grown *.

The Kelvin, and all its tributary streams, at least before it was

* There is a tradition, that fish were much more abundant 50 or 100 years ago than now. It is even said, that before the Partick mill-dam was erected over the Kelvin, salmon in spawning time came up as far as Kilsyth, and were to be found in every pool. It is certain that none have been found since.

The reasons why the small fish are less abundant, may be,

1st, That there is much more lime used as manure than formerly: And it is allowed that the lees of lime are destructive both to the fish and their spawn.

2dly, There is much more flax raised. Being watered in the rills and rivulets, it pollutes the streams, and renders the water noxious to all, and fatal to many.

3dly, Drag-nets and pock-nets, i. e. nets in the form of a bag, are often used, though contrary to law: all the larger fish are by that means destroyed.

4thly, As none of the heritors reside, fishing is quite a common privilege with us: It is of course the amusement of every idler.

was cut and streightened, furnished a considerable quantity of fine trout. The pools were numerous and large. But, being a muddy slow running river, it became a harbour for pikes : This voracious animal preyed upon the small fish. But now, that the course of the river is open and clear, and free of pools, the trout must in time become more abundant ; whereas the pike can find little or no harbour.

The great canal, in all likelihood, will prove a very ample source of supply for all kinds of fish that delight in a stagnant muddy water. Perch, pike, and brozes, already abound. The first, though numberless, and caught even by children with the greatest ease, are as yet for the most part very small. They seldom exceed 6 inches, though I have seen them a foot long. The pike are both abundant and fully grown : sometimes they are from 10 to 20 lib. weight ; but for the most part from one to four. They are generally caught by lines baited ; seldom or never with the rod and fly : and it is only the amusement of children to catch them, the true angler seldom thinks it worthy of his attention.

Springs.—There is perhaps no district where there is a greater variety and abundance of springs. Along the whole brow of the hills they abound ; and they are equally remarkable for the quantity and quality of the water they send forth. There is one or two so copious, that during the heat of summer they will each fill a pipe of 3, perhaps 4 inches diameter ; and the water of almost all of them is as pure as crystal. Two have been consecrated to their tutelar saints, and still bear their respective names ; the one is called St. Tartan's, perhaps a contraction of St. Tallertan's ; the other, which seems to have attracted the attention of our forefathers for many generations, is called St Mirron's. There is a third that goes by the name of Kittyfrist well. There is no superstitions veneration

neration paid, nor any virtue ascribed to the waters of any of them. The last mentioned is rather regarded as noxious; And the waters of it are said to have proved fatal to the unwary traveller: But this seems to be a vulgar prejudice. The water appears pure and salubrious; but as it lies upon the hilly road to Stirling, and near the very summit of the hill, perhaps some traveller, in the fervid noon of a summer's day, overheated with the fatigue of climbing, may have rashly tasted or drunk liberally of the cooling spring. This, at all events, must have been dangerous. Perhaps, at one time or another, it may have proved fatal.

There is one mineral spring in this parish, about a quarter of a mile above the town, and near the old mansion-house of Kilsyth. It seems to be a strong chalybeate; and is said to have been much resorted to in former times, and deemed medicinal in certain nervous affections of the stomach. It is now so totally neglected, that it is not easy for a stranger to distinguish the place where it was. I know of no chemical analysis having been made of the water; but, as it tastes and smells somewhat like rotten eggs, or the scourings of a foul gun, as it makes silver black, and wood of a reddish yellow, I am disposed to think it is impregnated with a considerable quantity of sulphur.—In one of our lime quarries there are evidently some springs of a petrifying quality, but none of any note.

Minerals.—The mineralogy of the parish would fill a volume; and might engage the attention of the natural historian for a life time. As I do not pretend to be an adept in that science, I shall only give a general glance at the subject.

The first article I shall mention, is the iron-stone. In both extremities, and near the centre of the parish, this has been found; and there are favourable appearances in a varie-

ty of other places: excepting at Banton, in the east barony, it has not been wrought to any considerable extent; but it is upwards of 25 years since it was first wrought there by the Carron Company; and it continues to be wrought to a considerable extent, still furnishing generally about 5000 tons every year. The number of miners has been various, but in general from 50 to 60; and as there is still a great field remaining, it may employ as many hands, and furnish as great a quantity for many years to come. It consists in general of several strata, from 4 to 14 inches thick; separated from each other by their seams of clay or dalk, and subdivided by perpendicular fissures into small square wedges, from six inches to two feet.

These seams are principally the property of William Cadell, Esq. of Carron-park; though some part of them belongs to the Carron Company.

In the west barony belonging to Sir Archibald Edmonston, there is a very uncommon collection of ball iron stones; these are of a beautiful form, and exquisite richness and quality. They are uniformly of one shape; resembling a round flat topped loaf of bread, or an apple pudding; but they are of all sizes from a quarter of an inch to 12 inches diameter.

When broken or cut asunder, they exhibit within a great variety of square partitions; these are generally filled with white spar, which the old fossilists call septaria. But I have seen them quite empty; and beautifully excavated like a honeycomb. Being pretty hard, they receive a fine polish; and they have been wrought up by marble cutters into ornaments, in-laid work, or cabinets. Some of them are truly beautiful; but their intrinsic value consists in the fine quality and great quantity of iron which they contain; they are supposed to be the richest that have ever been found. The Carron

ron Company, who buy up all the iron-stone in this parish, and in almost all this county, pay for this at the rate of 9s per ton delivered at their works, or on the banks of the great canal. But this is generally allowed to be a price very inadequate to its value, which is comparatively great. For the most part these balls are found in a deep bank of blaes. They lie in regular strata, at unequal and irregular distances. But the balls of each stratum are generally of the same size; towards the top of the bank, they are smaller, and larger below. Though the balls, when collected, are valuable, yet the quantity of blaes is so great, in comparison with the quantity of iron-stone, and the strata are at such a distance, that it never can be wrought to a great extent with much advantage. Yet, as it lies on the course of a rapid burn, and as the blaes is soft and friable, there are considerable quantities of it washed down daily, but especially at every flood; while the balls are left behind. It is in this way chiefly that they have been hitherto collected.

Immediately under the bank of blaes in which this ball iron stone is lodged, there is a very fine post of lime-stone. In some places it is only 3 or 4, but for the most part 7 or 8 feet thick. It is a conglomeration of small shells, of all sizes, from an inch diameter, till they become so small as to be invisible to the naked eye. Their form is as various as their size: but for the most part, they are long and cylindrical, and somewhat like a screw. I believe the technical name for such is *orthoceratitæ*. They are generally supposed to be an extraneous fossil; for the original shell has not yet been discovered in any of the frequented seas. The greatest part of these are very small; though I have seen some an inch in diameter; and 3 or 4 inches long.

At one time, I had occasion to pick up a petrification rather of an uncommon shape, size, and colour. It was lodged

ged in the clay above the lime ; and it resembled much an elephant's tooth, at least it was of the colour of ivory, and as smooth. It was precisely of the form of a large tooth or small crooked horn, about an inch and a half diameter at the base, and tapering till it terminated in a sharp point. The water that oozes through the fissures of this post of lime is clearly of a petrifying quality. And all these apertures are filled with clay and petrified shells. Where this post is thickest, which is at a place called Westside, it has been wrought for some years by mining, and has been burnt in draw kilns. As the roof is good, the post generally 7 or 8 feet thick, and divided into square cubes by horizontal and perpendicular fissures, it is wrought to much advantage, at a very moderate expence. It may be wrought for ages, for the post seems inexhaustible. And it is nearly 700 feet above the level of the valley, and must therefore always be level free.

As it consists almost entirely of shells, it is of course, of the best quality ; and contains the greatest quantity of calcareous earth, and the least proportion of sand of any lime perhaps in Scotland. Therefore the demand for it is great, and increases every year. Considerable quantities of it have been sent to Glasgow, by the great canal. But the greatest part is employed in this parish, and in the parishes of Kirkintulloch, Cumbernauld, and Cadder. Upwards of 1000 chalders have been sold this summer ; though the work is properly speaking, in its infancy. It is sold at so low a rate as 8s the chalders, or 6d per boll, and is the cheapest lime in this neighbourhood, though it is the best. The boll is equal to three firlots of corn measure.

Below this, about a quarter of a mile, and in the course of the same burn, there is another post of lime. It is of a very free grain ; and of a dusky marble colour, capable of a fine polish. But as the post is thin, not exceeding 45 inches,

and is covered with a deep bank of blaes, from 10 to 30 feet thick, and without a proper roof, it can never be mined, nor even removed without considerable expence.

In a variety of other places, there are favourable appearances of lime; especially in the east barony. Near the centre of it, at a farm called Berry-hill, there are several strata of lime, which have been wrought to advantage. But it is much more sandy, and contains less calcareous earth; and is in every respect, of a coarser quality. Yet, as there is a good roof, and, as it may at all times be wrought level free; as it consists of several strata, of above 6 or 8 inches thick, with interstices of clay about the same thickness; and as it is divided into small square wedges by perpendicular fissures, it is wrought with ease and little expence; seldom or never requiring the force of powder. But the road to it is steep, and in bad repair; therefore the demand for it has not been great, except from the immediate neighbourhood.

I suppose however, that there may be at least 1500, if not 1800 chalders annually thrown out from the three posts put together.

Besides these, which have all been turned to account, there is about a quarter of a mile above West-side, a vein of copper, which was wrought about 60 or 70 years ago, by order of the York building company. Of this, I could not have given any distinct account; unless it had been examined by the ingenious Mr Raspe, in the year 1791. As his report is very accurate, and now before me, I shall state it in his own words, in the note below *.

In

* " I examined a drift, which had been driven into the side of the hills
 " near Corri, many years ago. And found in it a vein of reddish heavy spar,
 " or vitriolated barytes. It has been very preposterously shut up, with a view
 " as it would appear of preventing or discouraging any further trial. For as
 " the

In a variety of places, but especially in the farm of Dun-
trocher, about a mile above the town of Kilsyth, and in the
G g 2 valley

" the drift was horizontal, it could not occasion any danger to cattle. I had
" it opened for me, just wide enough for me to creep in, on all fours. I
" found the drift within very narrow, 8 fathoms upon the run of the vein,
" which is north and south. At the forehead a short cross drift appeared east
" and west, full of a rusty clay as it were, upon a cross gossan, or clay vein,
" the thickness of which remains as yet undetermined. The heavy spar vein
" seems here to be interrupted by it; though it may probably con-
" tinue a good way beyond it. For it appears clearly, in the face of
" the brae, many fathoms south and south west, the other way: so that there
" is no doubt of its being a regular spar vein of a considerable length and
" width. In the drift, it is about 2 feet, and in the above mentioned south
" or south west end, rather more than that even at the grafs."

" Considering that this kind of heavy spar is the constant matrix and at-
" tendant of metals of all the veins and works which I have seen and ex-
" amined in the Ochil hills and Highlands;—that the vein is favourably
" situated in high ground, on the very edge of the hill; that consequently, it
" may be undercut very deep by short flanking levels; and chiefly, that
" in some parts, it is thinly sprinkled with copper ore, I think it my duty, to
" recommend a slight trial of it, by a couple of trial pits of 3 or 4 fathoms, as
" also by a couple of costeeing pits or trenches, upon and beyond the cross
" gossan, or clay vein in the forehead of the old drift."

" The cost of this trial will probably not exceed L. 25 sterling. And the
" result of it whatever it may be, will be satisfactory; whether ore be found,
" or only the nature of the vein ascertained fully, as a road for spirited spe-
" culators to venture upon hereafter."

The above report is so accurate and important, that I trust it will not be
thought tedious. And the following clause, I think, merits attention.

" Higher up in the Halestain burn, I saw large masses of grey, and variegat-
" ed, dull coloured flint; yellow and red jasper, with nodels of agate
" and porphyry. If the jasper could be traced here to a regular body, which
" is not unlikely, lapidaries might be supplied from hence, very cheap; or
" rather, lapidary milns might be set up in the burn, or at Kilsyth, to great
" advantage. For this jasper is of a very fine grain; and some how or other
" finds its way already to the lapidaries and seal engravers, at Edinburgh
" and London."

valley also, there are favourable appearances of a clay marle. But as no trial has been made of it, I cannot speak with certainty, either of its quantity or qualities.

About a quarter of a mile south of the town, within 30 yards of Auchensterrie bridge, and 100 of the great canal, there is a valuable and inexhaustible quarry of basalt.

The whin-stone rock is from 20 to 30 feet high; and as there is very little surface upon it, it may be wrought at a small expence; more especially, as it is in many places intersected by horizontal and perpendicular fissures, whereby it is cut into blocks of all different sizes. It is peculiarly adapted for causeways, or paving the streets of any populous city. The stone is solid, compact, and durable; yet though extremely hard, and therefore capable of receiving a very fine polish, it is very free, and easily formed into almost any shape. The prevailing colour of it is a slate blue, beautifully freckled with little white nodules.

The demand for this stone has been considerable. Several thousand tons have been annually conveyed up the great canal to Glasgow, and the neighbourhood; and it is said to be equal in quality to any stone that has been found. Though at the distance of 14 miles, as it is conveyed by water, it can be furnished at as cheap a rate, as if it were within 3 or 4 miles of that city.

I may add, that near the centre of this parish, in the Garrel glen, about half a mile above the town, there is one of the richest, finest, and most beautiful posts of free-stone in
Great

I have seen some of these myself, they are beautiful indeed. Specimens of each are in the possession of Mr Robert Wilson at Banton, who has with much labour and ingenuity, made a beautiful and pretty complete collection of the minerals and fossils of this parish. It would be a happy circumstance if there was in every parish a cabinet or collection of the same kind.

Great Britain ; and happily it is inexhaustible. The colour of it is exquisite ; for the most part, it is a beautiful white, with a tinge of yellow. But some of it is finely variegated with brown and yellow veins, like marble. Other parts of it are decorated with the most delicate vegetable impressions, as black as coal. Some of these are as small as a hair, and when the stone is finely polished, they are a beautiful contrast to the rest of the mass. I believe no free-stone is capable of a finer polish. For though it is soft and easily wrought when first brought from the quarry, it becomes daily whiter and harder when exposed to the weather. It becomes hard, white, and of a fine consistence ; and so durable, as to stand all weather, and suit every climate. Of course, it is equally calculated for building above or below the surface of the earth or water ; and for the finest ornaments, and strongest and coarsest pieces of architecture. In the erection of bridges, where it is exposed to the constant attrition of the water, and in paving streets, it is particularly useful. Of course, it is much esteemed in Glasgow, and wherever it is known. Many streets in the New Town of Glasgow are paved with it ; and it has been formed into some of the finest ornaments, such as vases, columns, and fretted work. The demand for it is great, and it is sold at a reasonable price. Even when delivered at Glasgow in blocks, it is only 2s the yard for pavement ; and there are upwards of 1000 tons conveyed to Glasgow by the great canal every year *.

I am convinced if its value were known, there would be a greater demand for it than there is from many places of Scotland,

* This quarry is set at L. 40 sterling annually. Each quarrier is allowed 7d^½ the yard, for his work. Land carriage to the canal costs 3 pence per yard ; for lordship 3 pence ; trackage and tonnage in the canal are trifling.

land, but especially from England. For if free-stones are conveyed to London from the country north of Aberdeen on the east coast, and from Stevenston in the county of Ayr on the west, they certainly might be conveyed with equal advantage from Kilfyth. The great canal passes within less than a mile of this quarry ; and I am persuaded, that a load of Kilfyth free-stone either roughly formed or in the block, would be a valuable commodity of the kind. For if sold in London at L. 1 : 12s. the ton, as free-stone of inferior quality is, it might furnish a very liberal freight, or as ballast prove a profitable branch of trade.

The post is generally from 10 to 15 feet, and lies upon a seam of coal about as many inches thick. There are a great variety of coal stalks, rising from this seam, like trees from the surface of the earth. Some of them are 6, 10, or 20 feet long in proportion to the depth of the free-stone ; and they differ as much in diameter as in length, being of all sizes from an inch to 2 feet. These are justly esteemed by philosophers objects of great curiosity. And they have furnished matter for much speculation ; they resemble exceedingly a petrification : and yet the substance is not calcarious earth, but solid free-stone of similar texture with the circumjacent rock. I have in my possession, one the largest and most beautiful that has hitherto been found. It is nearly 16 inches in diameter, and 6 feet 9 inches in length, of a compact solid mass. For the original stem when entire was upwards of 12 feet long ; but the top, as is generally the case, was less solid, and mouldered down or was easily broken when exposed to the open air. In shape, colour, and appearance, it precisely resembles the trunk of a thorn tree ; in so much, that every stranger at first view supposes it to be one. It seems to be of equal solidity with any part of the mass ; and the surface of it is beautifully fretted with regular indentations
much

much like the surface of a fir top. Besides these, there are likewise longitudinal seams from end to end, resembling the trunk of an old yew, or thorn tree. It is unnecessary to say, that the circumjacent case bears a similar impression, only reversed. But it deserves to be mentioned, that within the same trunk, and at different angles, there lie a variety of smaller ones, from two to three inches diameter. These are seldom parallel to one another, and cannot be extracted without destroying the large trunk; but when extracted, they shew beautiful impressions; finer by much than the larger trunk. These sometimes branch out into regular ramifications at top, as they almost always do at bottom; and the smaller the branch the finer and more delicate the impressions upon its surface; in so much, that the smallest will bear and almost require to be examined by the microscope. I gave one of them lately to a gentleman, who promised to send it to Weir's museum.

It is unnecessary to add, for I believe it is a common thing, that there are uniformly vegetable impressions along the base of the coal and surface of the dalk or blaes. These are so endlessly varied, that I cannot pretend, nor would it be proper to attempt an enumeration of them.

Coal.—The only article that remains to be mentioned, is the coal. This has been wrought for ages; and is still abundant, I trust inexhaustible. The seams are various, and of very different quality. The coal in the west barony, is one of the best I ever saw. It burns clear, lasts long, gives a good heat, and cakes, so that the very dross of it is valuable; and makes a better fire than most other coals. Happily for us this seam is now wrought to a considerable extent, and promises to be a lasting benefit to this parish and the neighbourhood. Robert Dunmore, Esq. of Ballakinrain, is at present the tacksmen; and

and as he is a gentleman of a liberal mind, and public spirit, I have no doubt that he will carry on the work with success and to a great extent. This same seam has been wrought for generations in different places of the west barony; but it was given up for many years, till lately the work was revived.

The coal in the east barony, especially at Banton and Glen Garrel, is of an inferior quality. But for that reason, it is useful for a variety of purposes which the other could not so well serve. It gives an uncommon heat, but upon being exposed to the air, it moulders down into dross. And when thrown into a chimney, it is so brittle, that whenever it is touched, it turns into a powder or mere gum. But in an oven, or furnace, or smith's forge, it is of great service: and is one of the best coals for these purposes in the kingdom. Of course, there is a great demand for it from printfields, and other public works, and from smiths, for 6, 10, or 12 miles round.

None of those coals are far below the surface. Of course, they are easily kept level free. In the west barony, the seam is generally from 4 to 12, and in the east from 12 to 16 fathom deep. The strata in Glen Garrel, where coal has been wrought for 50 years without interruption, lie generally in the following order:

- 1st, Soil and rubble.
- 2d, A thin bed of blaes, or sometimes channel.
- 3d, A post of free-stone, from 10 to 20 feet thick.
- 4th, Indurated shivers, blaes, or sometimes in its place a thin seam of coal 11 inches thick.

In the east end of the parish, at a place called Bush, is the richest and best seam of coal; but it is not level free, and therefore would require a fire engine. It has been wrought to a considerable extent. I find that Lord Kilsyth, ordained

ordered it to be opened in the year 1670. There are nearly 100 coal pits that have been wrought.

In general, the dip of all the coals is to the south east. But when it meets with what are called hitches, the dip alters in every direction. In one place at Balcastle, the coal was found in the form of a trough, rising up in all directions.

The manner in which they are wrought is by pick and wedge; boys, and sometimes girls are employed to draw the skiffies, below ground. The men enter about 4 in the morning, and their day's work is generally over by 2 in the afternoon.

Each load may be about 2420 cubic inches. It is sold at $7d\frac{1}{2}$ at the hill. Four of these make a tolerable cart; it is said, they will weigh upwards of 1200 weight.

There are generally from 8 to 12 constantly employed as colliers; each of these at an average, will put out 10 or 12 loads per day: though some can put out more. For each load they have 3 pence, so that in general, they can earn from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day. There may be about 120 loads, that is 30 carts put out daily, or about 180 carts every week. Allowing 50 weeks in the year, there will be 9000 carts, or 36,000 loads, annually put out. This is equal to 10,300,000 hundred weight, or 871,200,000 cubic inches. At half a crown the cart, the sale in a year may be equal to L. 1125 sterling. But the expences attending the work are very considerable; sometimes 9 or 10 men are constantly employed, besides colliers: so that the weekly expences are generally from L. 9 to L. 16.

It is to be hoped, that a great deal of this will be saved. For there is a small steam engine immediately to be set up. This will easily do the work of a number of men, and save an enormous expence.

If so, it may be expected, that the prices may fall somewhat; at present the poor find them to be very high. And what is surprising, for 100 years, that is, from 1670, till 1770, the coals kept nearly at the same price, from 3d. to 4d. the load. Since that period, they have become too much an article of commerce. Speculation has run so high, that they are now double the price they were 20 years ago. It were to be wished, that gentlemen would consider this.

It is supposed that there are many seams below the one that has been wrought. It seems only the crompt coal. But as it abounds, no attempt has been made to search deeper.

Vegetables.—The vegetables of this parish are not very remarkable. Yet our sequestered glens furnish abundance of amusement for the botanist. Those who are versant in that science inform me, that there are not a few of the rarer indigenous plants. Broom and furze abound in every inclosure. There are a few plants of the black berry tree. The sloe tree is in almost every glen. The hawthorn, hip thorn, the wild rasp, and elder, with all the varieties of the bramble, are frequently to be seen. In every glen and copse wood, the hazel prevails. There are a few crab apples to be found, scattered up and down: but chiefly in the neighbourhood of the decayed and ruinous old orchards of the family of Kilsyth. Perhaps they may be the produce of seed dropt from those gardens, or carried by wild birds. There is a variety of the willow tribe, though no great quantity any where. The birch is one of our most beautiful plants. The mountain ash, and small cherry tree, either in blossom or full bearing, are both a beautiful ornament to our glens. The largest trees are the ash, the elm, the alder,

alder, the sycamore, and oak : but they are very thinly scattered.

The few fruit trees which we have are sometimes very prolific, but the produce is always precarious. There is a great variety and very considerable quantities of gooseberries, rasps, and currans. And few, if any country parishes can boast of as many flower gardens, or a more curious and complete collection of flowers.

Animals.—The animals of this parish are such as are common over all the neighbourhood.

Foxes, badgers, polecats, weasels, and hedgehogs, abound. A few otters and rabbits may be found also ; and the hare is frequently to be seen.

The birds of prey, are in no respect singular or remarkable. The most common are the kite, and the hawk, and the raven-crow. The owl is also to be found. But the most destructive of all, is the grey *glade*, or kite, as it is commonly called. The eagle once frequented our rocks and hills, while pastured with sheep. But since black cattle have come in their place, the eagle is never seen. Even the foxes and ravens, on the same account, are not so numerous as heretofore. The moor fowl and wild duck, the partridge and wild pidgeon, the heron, the magpie and skylark, are all to be found in their season. The snipe, the sparrow, the redbreast and wood-pecker, the bat, the common green moor, and red breasted or rose linnet, the blackbird, the thrush, the goldfinch, the chaffinch, the wren, &c. with all the varieties of small birds, are common here.

In winter, wild geese in amazing flocks, to the number of 200 or 300 at a time, appear in the valley. The northcock

and snow bird, only appear in severe storms, like that of winter 1795.

The birds of passage, with the usual time of their appearance and departure, will appear from the following table.

	<i>Appearance.</i>	<i>Departure.</i>
The cuckoo,	about 25. March;	when barley begins to shoot,
The swallow,	28. April;	1. October.
The lapwing,	20. March;	26. July.
The curlew,	10. March;	10. October.
Woodcock,	21. December;	various as the storm rises.

Church, Living, Manse and Glebe.—It is impossible to say, when there was a church first erected at Monaeburgh. In all likelihood, it was very soon after the Reformation; perhaps before it. At all events, it was before the year 1586. For at that time, Mr Alexander Livingstone, a near relation of the family of Callendar, was parson of this parish. The succession of ministers, and several particulars relating to the church, are inserted in a note; which was chiefly taken from an old volume of the records of the presbytery of Glasgow, which was sometime ago discovered at Dumblane; and has very lately been destroyed by an accidental fire in Glasgow*.

Mr

* The time of Mr Livingstone's admission is not recorded; but in the year 1592 he was so aged and infirm, that he could neither preach, administer the sacrament nor exercise discipline, so that the presbytery upon a visitation advised him to get a helper. It would appear, however, that he was unwilling to take this advice. For in the year 1594 the Presbytery applied to the Synod for a helper to Mr Livingstone. What was the consequence of this application we are not told. But in the year 1597 Mr Livingstone was deposed for *inhability in his person of spiritual graces, to teach the kirk, and for inhability to use discipline in the said kirk as becomes.* In this sentence he seems to have acquiesced, for he confesses

Mr James Robe was admitted minister, 24th April 1713. He had received a presentation from the Viscount of Kilsyth.

And

confesses the charge. Perhaps he was the more ready to do so, because the Presbytery at the same meeting took Mr William Livingstone his son on trials for the living. The reason assigned for their doing so, was, that he perceived himself to be inwardly called to the ministry.

Accordingly in the year 1599, having on July 3. received a presentation from Lord Livingstone, (I suppose the Earl of Callendar), he received inauguration, on the 17th, imposition of hands, collation and confirmation. At this time he was a considerable heritor in the parish; being proprietor of the lands of Monaeburgh. The boundaries of that estate are not well known, but it is certain that the grounds upon which the village stands were a part of them. For Sir William Livingstone of Kilsyth, one of the Lords of Session, purchased them from the parson for the express purpose of extending the village, which stood at that time on the banks of the *Ebroch*. Those new feus were granted along the *Garrel Burn*, which meets the *Ebroch* nearly opposite the centre of the village; and of course the new town was called Burnside. The parson seems to have been a man of considerable influence at that time, and in the year 1604 he used all that influence with the greatest zeal in opposing the restoration of the bishops. For which cause, and for his nonsubmission to the canons and ceremonies, he was deposed, and by his Majesty's authority, deprived of his ministry both at Monaeburgh, and also at Lanark.

After this period there seems to have been a vacancy for some years. At last, in the year 1615, Mr Archibald Graham was admitted minister. Soon after his admission he disposed of a part of the glebe, though it appears that he did not pocket the money; but in all likelihood allowed it to go to repair the church. At all events, we find that he expended a considerable sum in repairing the easter gabel, building a belfry, and purchasing a bell. This bell was only taken down this summer, and had a date upon it corresponding to this, viz. 1626. All that Mr Graham required in acknowledgement of this donation, was, that his name might be cut upon the vane of the belfry, and A. G. the initials of his name still remain as a memorial of his liberality. Mr Graham seems to have breathed much of the spirit of his predecessor. For even in the year 1636 he had not practised the canons and constitutions. And therefore he was called before the high Commission Court to answer for his conduct. That court seems to have been much incensed, for though

And so tenacious was his Lordship of his right, that neither he nor his Lady would allow a call to be moderated in his favour.

a very favourable testimonial was given him by the parishioners, and even by the Presbytery, he was deposed.

The following year Mr Gabriel Cunningham was admitted. He seems to have been less scrupulous. Taking warning from the fate of his two immediate predecessors, he conformed to episcopacy, after the restoration. At the time of his admission the stipend of Monaeburgh was only 5 chalders of victual, meal and barley 100 lb. Scots, and 16 stone weight of cheese. In the year 1665 the money stipend was, however, augmented to 350 merks. At the same time the manse was considerably repaired. But principally at the parson's own expence. This was the more remarkable, as he had paid 500 merks for it to his predecessor. After these repairs, it was valued by tradesmen as worth 1160 merks. His glebe, after the sale his predecessor had made of a part of it, consisted only of 7 acres or little more. In all likelihood, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not administered in this parish, till about this period. For it is recorded, that in the year 1665, communion table cloths, cups, and tickets, were obtained, and a basin for baptism, but no flaggons, nor even a church bible. The people repeated the creed, said the Lord's prayer, and sung the doxology after the psalms.

About this period, the village was considerably increased. A new town was built, not along the banks of the Ebroch or Garrel Burn as formerly, but on a rising ground about 200 yards south of those streams, which at that time was called *Moat Hill*, as the Lord of the manor had been accustomed to hold courts of justice in that place. This new town of course was called by the title of the proprietor, *Kilsyth*. And from that period the whole village obtained that name. Though the parish for upwards of 40 years retained still the old name *Monaebrugh*. The village about the time that this new addition was made, or at least soon after it, being removed at some distance from the small rivers, and in all likelihood ill supplied with water, that precious article was brought in earthen pipes, from a neighbouring spring about a quarter of a mile from the town; And a well or cistern was made near the centre of the new town, which still bears date 1676. Since that period, other cisterns supplied by the same spring, have been erected in different parts of the town, especially in the year 1716.

It would appear that Mr Cunningham died minister of this parish. For in the year 1666 Mr James Gartshore was admitted to the charge. But he did

favour. The presbytery, being assured that the presentee was acceptable to the parish, dispensed with that form, and ordained

did not continue in that office long. For he was translated to Cardross in the year 1673.

Two years after this, Mr Walter M'Gill, the last episcopal clergyman that officiated here, was admitted minister, being translated from Wigton. He was a man of uncommon meekness and moderation; and a great favourite of all ranks and denominations of people in the parish; insomuch, that when it was declared vacant by the Presbytery in the year 1690, an uproar ensued. The patron and his lady, and a great and powerful party in the parish espoused his cause; and when the Presbytery met at the church, the patron sent down the chamberlain to refuse them admittance, and lock up the doors. The populace even offered violence to the Presbyterian clergyman who was to officiate. The friends of the Presbytery were exasperated by this; and a scuffle ensued, in which many were wounded, and one killed. Mr M'Gill's partizans at last prevailed. And the Presbytery themselves seem to have been at a loss what steps next to take; insomuch, that they desisted from farther procedure, and even declared that they could not take any other measures. They were soon rescued from this dilemma. For in Feb. 1691 Mr M'Gill formally gave in his demission of the charge. When the Presbytery met at this time, they called for all the books of discipline, and registers of baptism. The latter were delivered up; and are on the whole regular and distinct from the year 1620 till that period. They are still in good preservation, as will appear from the extracts I make from them. When the clerk was ordered to deliver up the books of discipline, he said, they were in the hands of Mr M'Gill. When he was interrogated, he said, he had left them in the manse; the beadle who had charge of the manse, being called, said, that some person or other had destroyed them. So that it would appear all the three were willing to have prevented them from falling into the hands of the Presbytery. All the bills, bonds, and papers respecting the poors funds were nevertheless recovered, as well as the utensils and vessels belonging to the church.

A vacancy ensued for some time, during which period the Presbytery visited and ordered repairs upon the church, manse, and offices, to the amount of L. 212 : 1 : 4 Scots.

On the 29th of Dec. 1682, Mr James Hay, the first presbyterian minister, was translated from Kilmalcomb, and admitted to this charge. During

ordained him without a call. The principal occurrences during his incumbency, are recorded by himself in his own narrative, and by other contemporary writers; and it would be both unnecessary, and improper for me to enumerate them. At the same time, I cannot altogether pass in silence, what has been termed, the extraordinary work at Kilsyth, Cambuslang, and some other parishes, in the year 1742; especially as there were even then some who called themselves Christians, so blinded by prejudice, or by party zeal, as to affirm that it was a work of the Devil. Had they been satisfied with reviling the honoured instruments of that work, even though they did call them *limbs of Satan*, or *ambassadors of hell*, I should have only pitied them, and been willing to bury their railing in oblivion: But they were so destitute of that charity, “which thinketh no evil, “which rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;” as to persist in ascribing to diabolical influence, the effects produced among the people. I think myself therefore obliged to make some remarks on their conduct. And therefore I cannot pass their conduct in silence. If there are men of the present time, who can view the subject in the same light, I reply to both, in the spirit of meekness, “that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand;” and that if their representations have

ing his incumbency the church received considerable repairs. The whole roof was renewed, the north aisle and the vault or burying ground under it, was likewise repaired in the year 1697. And the parish was assessed in the sum of L. 1266 : 13 : 4 Scots for that purpose. Mr Hay being considerably advanced in years before he was admitted, soon became unable to officiate. Inasmuch, that on the 1st of July 1710, he testified to the session his desire of having an assistant. And in the same day Mr James Stewart was elected by unanimous consent of the minister, session, and congregation to be assistant, and that as long as he was pleased to continue among them. In that capacity he officiated till the death of Mr Hay in July following.

A considerable vacancy again ensued. So that for nearly three years the Presbytery regularly supplied the charge once in the fortnight.

have been justified by the facts, it is certain that at least, in this parish, "Satan was divided against himself."

Others, with more candour and charity, have considered the remarkable circumstances to which I allude, as more the effect of enthusiasm, than of delusion. A great part of the established church, who were not eye witnesses of what really happened, were of this opinion at the time; and it is perhaps a common opinion still.

They have endeavoured to account for the unusual agitation and religious concern which then appeared among the people, by the influence of natural causes alone. They have ascribed them to the influence of passion, of hope, and fear, and sympathy, and example, or to all these causes united. They have told us, that the instruments of that work addressed the passions of men, more than their understandings; that those on whom the chief impression was made, were almost all affected in the same way, and expressed themselves in similar language; that the agitation of one was communicated to the multitude, and acted like a charm on their sympathetic feelings.

This representation is plausible, but it is only plausible. With the candour of a Christian, and the affection of a brother, I would ask those who have urged it:

1st, Is it possible to preach the gospel in its native simplicity and purity, without addressing the hopes and the fears of mankind? Where these passions have been addressed, has the effect been uniformly the same, as at Kilsyth in 1742? The reverse is certainly the truth, though we are all men of like passions with our fathers. Why are men who are addressed in the same manner, so much more cold, and careless, and lukewarm, than the people who were distinguished at that time? And why was it that under the *same ministry and the same means*, the same effects were not produced, even in 1742,

and the following years? We can adopt no conclusion with candour or consistency, but that the remarkable circumstances of that time, are not to be ascribed to those who were the instruments of producing them, or to any peculiarity in the means which they employed; but to the real efficacy of the doctrines of Christ, and to the power of God which accompanied them.

2dly, Let it be allowed, that all were affected in the same way, and that they expressed themselves in the same, or in similar words; let it be granted that all sighed, and groaned, and cried; though Mr Robe in his narrative, last edition, page 128, says, that those who discovered such appearances, were by far the fewest in number, being not one out of six, of those who felt this religious concern. But, may not an honest mind reasonably conclude, that the same cause should produce similar effects; and that the similarity in different persons, indicated the operations of the same spirit in them all.

3dly, The power of sympathy is undoubtedly great; no man denies it to be so, who knows any thing of the human frame. It is not improbable that its influence was considerable on the people of that time. But he, "who has the hearts of all men in his hands, and who turns them as the rivers of waters whithersoever he will," "who makes the very wrath of men to praise him," might or did employ, even this as the means of "turning many to righteousness." But whatever energy we ascribe to the means, let us not forget the hand which directs them to their end, or "the power which worketh all in all!" without the agency of God, the influence of the most powerful means is ineffectual. Neither is he that planteth any thing, nor he that watereth, but God who giveth the increase. I have no doubt that there were both enthusiasts and hypocrites distinguished in 1742. Mr Robe acknowledges this in his narrative, page 271. But

I am happy to have it in my power to say, that there are persons yet alive in this place who have proved by the uniform tenor of their lives, that they were not of the number, though their religious impressions were received at that period. By their fruits they may still be known, and the effects of conversion on men's practice is the only true test and criterion by which we ought to judge. Whatever were the means, whether hope, or fear, or sympathy, or example, they experienced at that period a great and important change, which has formed and decided their characters through life. And "if the sabbath of the Lord, which was formerly despised, was "then held honourable; if the ordinances of religion, which "were formerly neglected, were then strictly observed; if the "old and the young became fervent and frequent in family "and private prayers; if drunkenness and licentiousness were "then discountenanced, cursing and swearing discontinued; "and if filthiness and foolish talking, gave place to the pious "and pure effusions of a grateful heart; if, in a word, strife "and contention, wrath and malice ceased, and love, and "peace, and long suffering, and forbearance, and forgiveness of one another prevailed, if the thief stole no more, "but made restitution; and a whole parish at once, became "decent and devout, sober and serious; and that they did "so, is attested by pastor and people *, heritors, elders, and "Magistrates, in 1742, and by all the wise and worthy men," of the congregation of Kilsyth, who were eye witnesses to the events of that year, and are still alive; call this enthusiasm, or call it by any other name, I pray God, that I may ever feel its influence, and bear testimony to its power among this people!

* See Mr Robe's narrative, p. 34.

I pray God, that it may reach every kindred, and people, and tongue, and nation ! say, that it is the influence of fear, or hope, or sympathy, or example, its effects are worthy of the doctrine of salvation, and indicate the power which renders it effectual.

On the 21st March 1754, Mr John Telfer was ordained minister, he died on the 29th of March 1789. And on the 3d of September following, the present incumbent was admitted. The crown is patron ; and what is perhaps remarkable, there has not been a minister introduced into the parish since the revolution, who has not had the unanimous concurrence of the people. The living was augmented about three years ago, and now consists of 67 bolls 3 firlots of meal, 11 bolls 3 firlots of barley, L. 52 : 16s. in money and 16 stone weight of cheese.

In the year 1787, the glebe also was augmented ; so that it now contains in arable and pasture lands by decreet 14 ac. 2 r. 15 f. besides an acre and a half Scots measure, which has been possessed by the minister time immemorial ; and is allowed to belong to the church. — The glebe is at present in a variety of lots, of course not inclosed. But an excambion will soon take place, by which it will be thrown into one lot, and all inclosed of course. The manse was built about 8 years ago : it is a good house, well finished, and in good repair.

School. — The parish school was distinguished for many years, and though it has lately been on the decline, it is to be hoped, that it will soon be equal to what it has ever been. At least the heritors of the parish have contributed all in their power to make it respectable. They have assessed themselves in a handsome sum for building an elegant dwelling-house and school for the teacher ; it is nearly finished. And as they have

have elected a young man of a liberal education, abilities, and character, it is to be hoped, he will meet with every encouragement and be eminently useful. At present he has two boarders, and will have accommodation for a few more. His salary is now increased to 100 lib. Scots; he receives quarterly for teaching English 2s. 2d. for writing and arithmetic 3s. for Latin, Greek, and French, 4s. 6d. Besides he is appointed session clerk: for which he receives annually in name of fee L. 2: 10. ster. for each proclamation 2s. for every baptism 6d. and for a certificate 6d. besides other trifles.

The town is populous, the school large, and manufactures in a flourishing condition, and therefore it is probable that he shall meet with suitable encouragement. At the same time, it is much to be regretted, that men of a liberal education, who devote their time and talents to the instruction of the rising generation, should be so much neglected and meet with such inadequate salaries.

A common tradesman, if sober and attentive, is much more independent, and may in general earn a better livelihood than the most part of parish schoolmasters. While this continues to be the case, few men of abilities or character will aspire to the office, or rather doom themselves to the drudgery to which it requires them to submit, with the assurance of poverty attached. If they are driven to the office by necessity, they must soon dwindle into insignificance, and by becoming despicable in the eyes of the ignorant and worthless because poor, must lose their influence and their usefulness of consequence. But it is to be hoped, that the wisdom of the legislature will see the impending evil, and speedily interpose their authority to ward it off. If the salary of each parochial teacher were doubled, it would be only a trifle to the landed interest, and a mutual benefit to the teacher and the taught. Or, if this should not be thought adviseable, might not every established schoolmaster

schoolmaster be appointed postmaster if he resides in a post town, or land surveyor for the parish in which he officiates ; neither of these employments would engross too much of his attention. And either of them might be a handsome addition to his income. Besides the parochial school which is very properly placed in the centre of the village, there are two, sometimes three private schools in it, besides one in the centre of the east, and one in that of the west barony.

The latter of these at Chapelgreen was erected in the year 1723, in consequence of a donation of L. 60 ster. from Mr. John Patrick merchant in London, and a native of this parish. That sum according to the terms of the donation, was devoted to the purpose of building the school and endowing the teacher with a yearly salary not exceeding L. 3 ster. in order that he might be enabled to teach the poor scholars gratis. The session are nominated trustees of the fund under the inspection of the presbytery ; and they are likewise patrons of the school.

The school in the east barony is at Banton ; it is generally well attended, though the encouragement to the teacher is not very great. He has a dwelling house ; and William Cadell, Esq. proprietor of the estate of Banton, has very liberally contributed to the support of the teacher from year to year. There may be at an average 260 scholars taught annually within the bounds of the parish.

Poor.—The poor belonging to this parish, are not numerous ; excepting in years of great scarcity, or want of employment. They are of course, liberally supplied.

The funds are raised chiefly from the weekly collections, though in part from occasional donations. There is besides this, a sum collected annually for the use of the mortcloths. As our burying ground is in much request by strangers,

as well as the inhabitants of the parish; that sum becomes often a considerable and very seasonable supply.

By act of parliament, 1597, those funds are entrusted to the Kirk Session; and they never can be committed to better hands. Though the management is entirely a labour of love, and a great labour too, often attended with much obloquy, and seldom or never rewarded even by the grateful acknowledgement of the heritors; yet, as it involves the interest of the poor, it is regarded by every elder as a sacred deposit. With diligence and discretion they consider the case of the needy. By associating with every class of people, they become acquainted with the real wants and dispositions of the widow, the orphan, and the fatherless, the feeble, the aged and infirm, and speedily administer relief. Upwards of L. 100,000 ster. at least, is entrusted to the elders of the church of Scotland; and by them distributed with a degree of fidelity and public spirit, which reflects the highest honour upon their office. Yet though the landed interest are relieved of a burden, which they themselves could not submit to, and from a duty which men of high rank could scarcely discharge, it is seldom that they will allow a Session house, or even a shade for collecting for the poor; or if it be granted, it is often with reluctance. And yet I suppose, that the greatest part of them would sooner erect such a shade at his own expence, than submit to the danger and drudgery of standing a whole hour, even one Sunday of the year, in a cold bleak winter day in the open air, to collect the mite which every worshipper offers.

That the funds of this parish have been collected with such trouble, managed with such fidelity, and distributed with such discretion, as I have now hinted, will appear from the following particulars.

At

At the Revolution, the whole funds delivered over to the Session, amounted only to L. 19:10. sterling. The weekly collection at that time never exceeded 1s and 8d; yet there is now in land and heritable bonds and cash, a fund near L. 300 sterling, for the support of the poor; and that too raised, not by a parsimonious hoarding up of the poor's funds, not by withholding *what was meet*, or granting the needy only a penurious pittance, but by a prudent faithful discharge of their duty, in collecting and distributing. That the Session of Kilsyth, was not in use to deny the relief which was necessary; and that these funds have been managed with such prudence and care, will appear from the following table.

Years.	Receivings.			Disbursements.				
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		
1720	-	8	16	8	-	10	6	4
1721	-	28	8	4	-	25	6	8
1740	-	24	0	0	-	20	12	8
1747	-	32	0	0	-	31	0	0
1749	-	43	8	0	-	37	0	0
1750	-	36	0	0	-	29	10	0
1765	-	42	10	0	-	41	0	0
1770	-	57	0	0	-	37	10	0
1772	-	22	10	0	-	16	2	0
1782	-	63	0	0	-	60	0	0
1784	-	56	0	0	-	55	0	0

For the last ten years, the average of receivings, is annually L. 70, disbursements, L. 65.

The table is only given as a specimen. In all of those years, the treasurer gave in a distinct account, for the precise term of a year. And therefore his receivings and dis-

bursements are clearly stated for that precise term. In the intervening periods, the account was sometimes taken in 6, 9, or 15 months, so that the annual rate cannot be so very accurately ascertained. But the same proportion between the receipt and disbursements holds, and therefore it is unnecessary to be more particular. But in a parish like this, where most of the heritors do not reside, and some have seceded from the church, and where none of them interfere with the poor's funds, the above facts ought to be made known to all. Especially when it is considered, that the above sums have been collected literally from the poor, or from the lower orders of the people, that is, from farmers and tradesmen, and the few residing heritors who attend divine service in the established church. Of course, the weekly collection has been necessarily small, though great in proportion to the circumstances of the inhabitants : And had it not been for the secession, it might have been one fifth more ; for in the year 1736, and after that period, when the secession had first commenced, there is a great defalcation ; and there was a greater still, about the year 1770, when the society of relief was established in this place. For it cannot be concealed, though it is with sincere regret I mention it, that when the people of that communion withdrew themselves from the established church, they seem to have shut up their bowels of compassion from their poor brethren ; at least they have withheld their hand from relieving them. But it is to be hoped, at least it is devoutly to be wished, that they may speedily see it to be their duty to assist, if not altogether to supply the poor of their own persuasion, and not cast them off when helpless. They will certainly lose nothing by doing so, either in their character as men, or as christians. On the contrary, they will have the approbation of the pious and the pure of every persuasion, and the blessing of the poor who are attached to their communion.

To the honour of all denominations of christians in this parish, they are always ready to contribute in a *private* capacity, when the circumstances of the poor require them to do so. During the inclement winter 1795, when every labourer was entirely idle, and almost every class of tradesmen, a subscription was opened for the feeble, the aged, and the infirm, and for the honest and industrious, who could not find employment, but were unwilling to come upon the parish. In the course of a few days, upwards of L. 11 were collected from the common orders of the inhabitants of every different communion; and by the concurrence of the heritors, it was raised at last above L. 30. The non-residing heritors not only concurred in this design, but have agreed to give a handsome sum yearly, for the support of the poor; an example truly laudable and worthy of imitation.

The ordinary poor which are not very numerous, are chiefly supported by the weekly collections at the church. But there are seldom above 10, and never above 15 upon the weekly list; these receive from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. monthly, each according to their several necessities. But by far the greatest sum goes to the supply of the occasional poor. And that none may be overlooked, the session meets weekly all the year round; and in winter they meet always twice, sometimes thrice, for the purpose of giving more liberal supplies than can be afforded weekly. At Martinmas, New-years-day, and Candlemas, they distribute from L. 3 to L. 4 ster. either in money or in coals, or cloaths, to all without distinction who stand in need of them. Sometimes this occasional supply amounts to L. 20 ster. in the winter; besides what is expended in the education of some orphans and many poor children.

Yet our funds have hitherto been sufficient; so that there has not been an assessment in this parish for a century past, excepting

excepting in the year 1740, as that was a year not only of want approaching to a famine, but of great sickness and distress, the session very judiciously took advantage of the act of parliament 1672. In the terms of that act, they called a meeting of the heritors, gave up a list of all the poor within the parish, and a state of the funds for their supply : calling upon them to assess themselves to make up the deficiency. Yet after all, the sum exacted was only L. 5 on each 100 lib. Scots valuation, which was certainly very trifling : and little felt either by heritor or tenant, as it was equally paid by both.

The above, however, is only an account of our parochial fund. Besides these, the weavers and masons have each a friendly society, and a common fund for the support of their brethren. These societies have given considerable relief to multitudes; insomuch, that without them or something similar to them, this parish must have been assessed long before this time to a considerable amount *.

K k 2

Population.

* The society of weavers was instituted in the year 1760. At that time the manufacturing business was only in its infancy. And of course, the operative weavers were not numerous; yet their numbers every year increased, and multitudes joined the society, who knew nothing of the craft; so that there are now upwards of 350 belonging to it. Each member either pays 7s. 6d. upon admission, and one shilling yearly; or one pound two shillings ster. at once, and he is for ever exempted from any future contribution, except a voluntary one, and entitled to all the privileges of the society. These privileges are considerable: if confined to bed by sickness, every member receives 3s. weekly; if only unable to work, though walking about, he receives 2s. besides. At his death, there are L. 2 sterling allowed his widow or family, or friends, for funeral expences. These and all their other regulations, seem to be wisely and well calculated to promote the common interest of the society: especially as every member has an honest pride in supporting himself and his family, and a great aversion to come upon the funds, unless when necessity urges him. The funds though small at first, have by proper
and

Population.—The population of this parish may be very accurately stated. For in the year 1790, an exact list was taken of every individual in it : at that time it contained precisely 2450 souls, but the three following tables will give the most concise view of this subject.

2

The

and prudent management, increased to what is to them a considerable sum. In houses, bills, and bonds, their property may amount to upwards of L. 300 sterling.

They meet annually upon the 1st Friday of August to chuse their deacon, and other office bearers, who meet regularly every quarter, or as often as occasion requires, to receive petitions, supply the poor brethren, and settle the private affairs of the society.

The mason lodge was instituted about the same time ; they hold of the grand lodge of Edinburgh ; every member at entry, pays 7s. 6d. if the son of a member, if a stranger 10s. 6d. and all pay 4d. quarterly thereafter. Their number is likewise on the increase, and may amount to about 120, their funds will of course be enlarged ; at present they exceed L. 100 ster. in houses, bills, and bonds. They have a very convenient lodge well fitted up ; they are able in some measure to contribute to the support of their poor brethren : if unable to work, they allow each member 2s. 6d. ; if confined to bed, he receives 3s. weekly. And a guinea is likewise allowed for funeral charges ; so that when a poor man is connected with the society both of masons and weavers, which is often the case, he has a very liberal allowance.

The miners of this parish propose likewise to establish a friendly society ; but it have not yet taken place, though I hope it will very soon.

Of all charitable institutions, those friendly societies seem to be the best : for they are not only happily calculated to relieve the poor, but to maintain that honest spirit of independence, which is the sure mark of an honest and ingenious mind. They therefore deserve encouragement from all ranks and denominations ; but especially from the landed interest, who have it in their power to be liberal. It would be for the interest of every heritor to encourage them ; perhaps it is not unworthy of the legislature itself to interpose in their behalf. Their funds might be exempted from all duty on bills and receipts : or in cases when they come in competition with other creditors, they might be allowed a preferable claim to all ; except the crown and the landlord.

But

The first exhibits at one glance, a distinct view of the number of houses, families, heads of families, widows, widowers, children, farmers, and male and female servants, in each district separately. For I think it more consistent with the object of a statistical account, to give a detail of the proportion of inhabitants in each district apart; than merely to state the number of the whole parish. By this means it will be an easy matter to say in any future period, whither the town or country part of the parish is increasing or decreasing: and in what proportion and denomination of inhabitants.

The second table exhibits a distinct view of the number of children in each family of every district; that are at the time alive.

The third represents the number of each denomination, and of every class of inhabitants.

TABLE

But a part, if not a principal part of these funds ought to be established by law, as a support for the widows and children of the respective members of each society. Or, if the funds already collected are found insufficient for that purpose, why, might not each member become bound to pay a small additional sum for the purpose of establishing a widows fund? A trifling sum annually from each would serve the purpose. But perhaps the wisest measure that could be adopted, would be to unite the friendly societies into larger bodies, and the tradesmen of the same craft throughout the kingdom into one society. The common stock, if allowed to accumulate for a few years, would soon be sufficient to answer all the purposes of their widows and their poor, and more effectually than the funds of small and separate societies.

T A B L E III.

Weavers	-	-	400	Clock-maker	-	-	1
Tambourers	-	-	280	Pensioners-chelsea	-	-	4
Tailors	-	-	15	Publicans	-	-	12
Masons	-	-	10	Labourers	-	-	24
Wrights	-	-	12	Grocers	-	-	23
Coopers	-	-	2	Coalliers	-	-	6
Carters	-	-	5	Miners	-	-	40
Flax-dressers	-	-	4	Excise-officer	-	-	1
Gardners	-	-	3	Sheriff-officers	-	-	3
Nailers	-	-	2	Stocking makers	-	-	7
Smiths	-	-	10	Bakers	-	-	2
Wheel-wrights	-	-	3	Surgeons	-	-	2
Butchers	-	-	5	Seamstresses	-	-	4
Shoemakers	-	-	12	Drummer	-	-	1
Millers	-	-	5	Stampmaster	-	-	1
Toll-keeper	-	-	1	Carriers	-	-	2
Sickle-makers	-	-	6	Teachers	-	-	5
Students	-	-	6				

Besides the distinction of employment, they may be distinguished likewise by their religious professions, thus:

Minister of the Establishment	-	-	1	Adherents to the Relief	207
Do. belonging to the Society of Relief	-	-	1	To the Secession	270
				Cameronians	9
				Glassites	1

The remainder adhere to the Established church, viz. 2000.

There may be about an hundred families or householders, that have no children. And upon the whole, there are not quite 3 children alive to each family.

In

In most places, there are more children to a family in the country than in the towns. But upon an examination of the 2d table, it will appear that the reverse is the fact with us: this is undoubtedly rather singular, but it may perhaps be easily accounted for. The manufacturing class of people, generally marry younger than farmers and labourers; because they are much sooner upon an independent footing. A weaver, the moment his apprenticeship is over, can earn a decent livelihood, and after serving as a journeyman for a short time, generally marries or begins house-keeping. Whereas a servant, or even the son of a respectable farmer, unless he turns to some other profession, is not so soon independent: the son, if his father is alive, is dependent on him, and in some measure his servant; and the servant as he changes his master and his residence often, cannot so conveniently marry. As this is the case, and as the farmers and labourers are the most numerous class in the country, as the manufacturers are in the town, it is natural to suppose, that the latter should marry sooner, and of course, should sooner become the fathers of families.

I shall not presume to say positively, whither the population of this parish has been on the increase or decrease: it seems to have been always on the increase. If Dr Webster's account be accurate, the increase is very considerable indeed, since the period in which he enumerated them. At that time, there were only according to his account 1346; so that in the course of 40 years, there are no less than 1104 souls added to this parish.

The chief causes of this increase are doubtless the following: 1st, That manufactures have been, especially since that period, in a flourishing condition: 2d, That of course, many from the remote highlands, and some from almost every quarter,

ter, have resorted to this district: 3d, That the greatest part of the farmers younger sons have become tradesmen or manufacturers: of course, they do not leave the parish, but resort to the village; and, by marrying, soon add to the number of souls. It corroborates this opinion much, that there are upwards of 900 souls in the old, and 300 in the new town: whereas the country part of the parish is not much more populous than it was last century: so that all the increase of population is in the town. Indeed it is certain, that it contains 300 souls more than it did even 10 years ago; that is, before the new town was begun. And as the situation is highly advantageous—and the encouragement to new settlers liberal, it must in all likelihood continue to increase. Especially, if a cotton mill, a bleachfield, printfield, or any public work be established among us; in that case, the increase must be rapid, and the population doubled in a very short time.

But in a statistical account, as little as possible should be left to conjecture. Therefore, without entering upon uncertain ground, I shall give as full a table of births, or rather baptisms, as I can. And fortunately I have been enabled to collect the materials for upwards of a century.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1688	2	14	5	3	24	19
1689	4	5	4	1	14	9
1690	0	5	3	0	8	8
1691	9	6	9	0	24	15
1692	9	9	11	0	29	20
1693	13	26	28	2	69	54
1694	15	34	20	3	72	54
1695	24	31	11	3	69	42
1696	19	20	29	1	69	49
1697	17	24	23	1	65	47
Average	$11\frac{2}{10}$	$17\frac{4}{10}$	$14\frac{3}{10}$	$1\frac{4}{10}$		$40\frac{7}{10}$
1698	14	24	18	1	57	42
1699	19	22	22	4	67	44
1700	12	20	12	1	45	32
1701	23	30	20	1	74	50
1702	12	29	18	0	59	47
1703	14	25	27	1	67	52
1704	15	27	22	2	66	49
1705	14	16	21	1	52	37
1706	10	29	35	1	75	64
1707	13	32	21	3	69	53
Average	$14\frac{6}{10}$	$25\frac{4}{10}$	$21\frac{6}{10}$	$1\frac{5}{10}$		47
1708	14	27	18	1	60	45
1709	20	34	25	4	83	59
1710	13	25	27	5	70	52
1711	15	17	22	1	55	39
1712	14	22	19	0	55	41
1713	13	30	25	0	68	55
1714	11	23	25	1	60	48
1715	12	24	31	3	70	55
1716	9	33	25	3	70	58
1717	16	26	22	4	68	48
1718	16	35	32	4	87	67
Average	14	$27\frac{1}{10}$	$24\frac{4}{10}$	$2\frac{4}{10}$		$51\frac{6}{10}$

Years.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1719	23	25	29	3	80	54
1720	8	31	31	3	73	62
1721	17	35	23	4	79	58
1722	16	31	28	16	91	59
1723	19	35	26	17	97	61
1724	23	32	23	17	95	58
1725	10	36	33	22	101	69
1726	26	28	32	14	100	60
1727	25	33	36	8	102	69
1728	13	26	29	0	68	55
Average	18	$3\frac{2}{15}$	29	$10\frac{4}{10}$		$60\frac{5}{10}$
1729	10	32	30	3	75	62
1730	17	22	18	2	59	40
1731	26	26	31	4	87	57
1732	12	31	36	1	80	67
1733	20	30	21	1	72	51
1734	18	37	32	8	95	69
1735	13	28	21	5	67	49
1736	17	23	35	2	77	58
1737	11	37	33	2	83	70
1738	6	28	22	3	59	50
Average	15	$29\frac{4}{10}$	$27\frac{9}{10}$	$3\frac{1}{10}$		$57\frac{3}{10}$
1739	11	34	30	3	78	64
1740	10	26	26	2	54	52
1741	6	22	20	3	51	42
1742	12	28	20	2	62	48
1743	17	32	25	1	75	57
1744	14	27	23	3	67	50
1745	11	35	27	2	75	62
1746	8	27	25	1	61	52
1747	13	22	42	3	80	64
1748	17	28	24	3	72	52
Average	$11\frac{9}{10}$	$28\frac{1}{10}$	$26\frac{1}{10}$	$2\frac{3}{10}$		$54\frac{3}{10}$

Years.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1749	15	41	29	6	91	70
1750	21	24	25	0	70	49
1751	16	28	22	1	67	50
1752	17	31	19	2	69	50
1753	17	21	25	4	67	46
1754	9	32	29	0	70	61
1755	20	33	17	0	70	50
1756	14	19	27	0	60	46
1757	14	20	20	2	56	40
1758	12	27	17	0	56	44
Average	$15\frac{5}{10}$	$27\frac{2}{10}$	23	$1\frac{5}{10}$		$56\frac{6}{10}$
1759	8	26	20	0	54	46
1760	15	24	19	0	58	43
1761	21	35	24	0	80	59
1762	22	28	25	0	75	53
1763	24	34	23	0	81	57
1764	13	30	36	0	79	66
1765	13	23	27	0	63	50
1766	19	40	34	0	93	74
1767	17	23	38	0	78	61
1768	12	23	20	0	55	43
Average	$16\frac{4}{10}$	$28\frac{6}{10}$	$23\frac{6}{10}$			$55\frac{2}{10}$
1769	24	27	36	0	87	63
1770	31	28	36	0	95	64
1771	18	44	41	1	104	85
1772	19	42	46	0	107	88
1773	15	38	33	1	87	71
1774	13	32	28	1	74	60
1775	15	37	29	0	81	66
1776	10	37	27	6	80	64
1777	12	31	32	2	77	63
1778	19	28	23	2	72	51
Average	$17\frac{6}{10}$	$34\frac{4}{10}$	$33\frac{1}{10}$	$1\frac{3}{10}$		$67\frac{5}{10}$

Years.

Years.	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Not of this Parish.	Total.	Births.
1779	13	27	32	0	72	59
1780	0	20	23	0	43	43
1781	14	38	29	0	81	67
1782	8	37	19	0	64	56
1783	4	44	26	0	74	70
1784	3	28	21	0	52	49
1785	13	30	28	0	71	58
1786	12	29	31	0	72	60
1787	3	36	28	0	67	64
1788	7	31	38	0	76	69
Average	$7\frac{7}{8}$	32	$27\frac{5}{8}$			$59\frac{5}{8}$
1789	8	37	30	2	77	67
1790	11	31	34	1	77	65
1791	14	37	31	0	82	68
1792	11	45	27	1	84	72
1793	9	34	25	0	68	59
1794	9	29	24	0	62	53
Average	9	$35\frac{3}{8}$	$28\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{4}{8}$		64

The following Table, will show the proportion between the males and females for 10 years, by an average.

Years.	Males.	Females.
From 1688 to 1698	17	14
— 1698 to 1708	25	21
— 1708 to 1718	27	24
— 1718 to 1728	31	29
— 1728 to 1738	29	27
— 1738 to 1748	28	26
— 1748 to 1758	27	23
— 1758 to 1768	28	23
— 1768 to 1778	34	33
— 1778 to 1788	32	27
— 1788 to 1794	35	28

The

The average was nearly from 28 to 26 during the above period; so that the number of males born has always been greater than the number of females.

At an average of 100 years, there are twins twice every three years: At present, there have been twins in four different families, within the course of a few months.

N. B. The following Table shows the number of children born in every month.

In the year 1754.					In the year 1774.				
	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	1	2	1	4		1	1	3	5
February,	1	2	2	5		2	3	2	7
March,	1	3	1	5		0	4	2	6
April,	1	2	6	9		1	1	1	3
May,	0	3	2	5		1	6	4	10
June,	0	6	2	8		2	3	2	7
July,	0	3	3	6		0	1	4	5
August,	0	3	3	6		3	0	4	7
September,	1	2	1	4		1	4	1	6
October,	1	3	4	8		0	5	1	6
November,	1	1	2	4		0	2	3	5
December,	2	2	2	6		2	2	1	5

In the year 1764.					In the year 1784.				
	Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Total.		Marriages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January,	2	2	4	8		1	1	0	2
February,	0	2	1	3		0	0	3	3
March,	1	5	5	11		0	2	3	5
April,	1	2	1	4		0	4	3	7
May,	1	1	3	5		0	4	4	8
June,	0	2	3	5		1	1	1	3
July,	0	1	2	3		1	2	2	5
August,	0	1	1	2		0	2	0	2
September,	1	4	4	9		0	1	0	1
October,	1	3	4	8		0	1	1	2
November,	5	0	3	8		0	3	1	4
December,	1	7	5	13		0	7	3	10

I have been more particular in the above extract, because I think it one of the most important articles in a statistical account; and because the registers of this parish have been kept with uncommon care.

Therefore, as it may be depended upon as correct, it may serve many useful purposes in time to come: and at present may furnish a very plausible if not a certain statement of the proportional increase or decrease of the population of this parish during all the above periods.

A few remarks upon this subject, may tend to set it in a clearer light. It is generally supposed, that if we multiply the annual births in a parish by 26, the product will give the number of inhabitants. But in this parish at least, this will not hold at present: and I think, I can assign very sufficient reasons for this.

1st, The still born children, and those who die before baptism are not registered.

2dly, Since the secession at first took place, a number, if not the greater part of seceders, neglect to register their children.

3dly, Since the duty was imposed upon baptisms, a still greater number have neglected to do so, in order to evade the tax.

4thly, In a manufacturing village like this, there are a great many strangers who come to reside: and in proportion to the encouragement they meet with, the number must increase. For these or other reasons, we must multiply the number of baptisms at present by 38, to give the number of inhabitants: and the reason is, that upon an average, there are at least 8, if not 10 children born annually, who for one or other of the above reasons, are not registered.

Yet, if we multiply the births for every period by 38, I fear this rule may be fallacious. For before the secession took place, and manufactures were introduced into this parish, or a duty imposed on the parish register, the record was unquestionably more complete.

I shall therefore endeavour to make an allowance for this in the following calculation.

For the first 10 years after the Revolution, the average of births annually, was about 40.

Multiply this N ^o .	40 by 30 the N ^o . of inhabts.	1200
For the second 10 years	47 by 30 - - -	1410
For the third	51 by 30 - - -	1530
For the fourth	60 by 30 - - -	1800
For the fifth less *	57 by 35 - - -	1995
For the sixth less	54 by 35 - - -	1890
For the seventh	56 by 35 - - -	1960
For the eighth	55 by 35 - - -	1925
For the ninth †	67 by 36 - - -	2412
For the tenth	59 by 38 - - -	2242
For the last 6 years	64 by 38 - - -	2432

Here it will appear, that I have made an allowance for still born and unbaptised infants, even at the earliest period. In place of 26, I have taken 30, allowing 4 annually. After the secession, I have allowed 5 more annually, which I think may be a reasonable allowance for those of that persuasion, who neglected to register their children. After the relief society was established here, a few more would neglect to do so: especially considering the duty on baptisms; therefore, I have from that period allowed 3 more.

After much minute investigation, I suppose the above may give a pretty accurate idea of the progressive increase of population.

Mr Robe mentions in his narrative, that there were in the year 1742, 200 communicants in this parish. At present there are no less than 515 in full communion with the church.

Table

* After the secession.

† After the relief society was established here.

T A B L E I.

Showing the number of deaths in every month, for ten years.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	Total.
January,	1	1	4	5	3	3	4	27	11	7	66
February,	3	2	3	4	7	2	7	15	6	4	53
March,	4	5	12	11	0	1	1	12	8	7	61
April,	8	6	8	3	4	5	4	8	6	4	56
May,	2	6	10	7	1	6	3	4	4	5	48
June,	6	7	6	4	3	2	3	1	4	6	42
July,	1	6	2	2	6	6	2	3	1	4	33
August,	2	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	20
September,	1	3	2	3	0	6	7	2	1	4	29
October,	3	4	1	2	2	4	9	2	5	4	36
November,	6	11	5	2	5	3	5	0	2	8	47
December,	4	2	7	4	2	5	12	3	2	0	4
Total.	41	56	63	48	34	45	59	79	52	53	

T A B L E II.

Showing the number of adults, male or female, old or young, in the above period.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794	Total.
Old men,	5	12	6	7	10	4	10	8	5	8	75 *
Old women,	5	5	13	6	10	8	8	10	13	9	87 *
Young men,	3	3	4	4	2	3	4	2	9	4	38 †
Y. women,	7	7	4	5	4	2	2	6	7	6	50 †
Children.	10	18	30	16	4	21	18	53	10	10	190 ‡

VOL. XVIII.

M m

The

* From 60 to 90.

† From 15 to 30.

‡ From 1 to 10.

The following may serve as a bill of mortality for the above period, as the diseases are distinctly marked out.

T A B L E III.

	1785	1786	1787	1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	1794
Small pox,	9	19	15	8		1	6	30		3
Innoculate do.			2					1		
Old age,	7	16	16	10	14	9	12	20	15	9
Measles,						1		2	1	
Consumption,	4	3	6	4	3		5	3	2	6
Cancer,			1				2		1	1
Bowels,				1	1	4	2	2		5
Croup,				2		11	3	5		
Flux,				1	1		3	5		
Fever,				2	3		2	3	12	6
Throat,								1	1	
Accident,		1	2			2	1		2	1
Child-bed,	1				1				1	
Teething,										1
Water in the head,										3
Epilepsy,										1
In drink,									1	
Hooping cough,			5				2	4		
Suddenly,				2		2	1			
Jaundice,						1			1	
Bleeding at the nose,							2			
Unknown,	9	6	10	8	7	5	2		6	3
Total.	30	45	57	38	30	36	43	76	43	39
From other parishes.	11	11	6	10	4	9	16	6	9	14

The following remarks will in some measure explain the above tables, and they are necessary to prevent mistakes.

Although the first table is an accurate statement of the numbers enrolled in the mortcloth keeper's books, yet there are a few annually die, who are not enrolled. All who are still born, and even a few infants have not the use of the mortcloth; but to counterbalance this on the other hand, such children as are still born or not baptised, are not included in the foregoing register of baptisms.

From the first of these tables, supposing them to be accurate, it will appear, that on an average of 10 years, about 51 die annually: and that January, February, March, April, and May, are the most fatal months; next to them is June, November, and December; and on the other hand, July, August, and September, are in general the most healthy months.

From the second table, it will appear, that in the same period, two thirds of the mortality bill consists of children: and two thirds of the remainder of old men and women: and that there is a very small proportion of young men and young women that die, that is between the age of 15 and 30.

From the third table, it will appear, that the small-pox are by much the most fatal of all the diseases to which we are liable. When this disease prevails, the mortality bill rises for that year, and *vice versa*.

Heritors, &c.—The heritors of this parish are not very numerous, and few of them have property in it to a great extent. Sir Archibald Edmonstone, of Duntreath, Bart. is proprietor of five sixths of the parish, and superior of the whole, except a valuation of L. 80 Scots. He is also titular of the tiends.

The following list of the heritors and their respective valuations, as it is extracted from the cess books, will give a pretty accurate idea of the proportion of landed property, which belongs to each. Though I shall not presume to point out their respective rentals, as that would be extremely indelicate and improper. I shall only give the supposed rental in *cumulo*.

<i>Heritors Names.</i>	<i>Valuation.</i>		
	L.	s.	d.
Sir Archibald Edmonstone	3108	10	0
William Cadell, Esq. Banton	281	15	10
Carron Company	120	15	10
His Grace the Duke of Montrose	80	10	7
The Town of Kilsyth feuers	75	0	0
Mr P. Marshall, Townhead	75	0	0
Mr D Patrick, of Wester Auchincloch	40	5	3
Mr John Miller, of ditto.	35	4	9
Mr A. Laing, of Ruchhill	30	0	0
Mr William Ranken, of Bogside	24	3	3
Mr J. Bow, of Auchinruoch	20	0	0
Mr John Graham, of Auchincloch	14	1	4
Mr Young, of Brockyside	7	10	0
Mr P. Bow, of Auchincloch	4	0	6
Scots L. 3916 17 9			

Supposed rental ster. L. 2950 0 0

Besides cot-houses, feus, &c. which may be 150 more.
The first four are non-residing heritors. All the rest reside, except Mr Young. And the greatest part of them farm their own

own property ; so that there is no fixed rent put upon it.

Farmers.—The farmers in this district are in general a sober, virtuous, and respectable class of men : they are equally free from the licentiousness of the proud and wealthy, and from the growling and discontented temper of the less sober and less industrious poor. It must be acknowledged, however, that they do not in general much excel their neighbours in the art of farming : like the tenants of most of the forfeited estates in Scotland, they are perhaps rather indolent, because they are independent ; and they make but few spirited exertions, because their rents are small and their leases long. Perhaps the principal cause why they are behind in some improvements, is, that their farms are in general very injudiciously laid out. They consist of a long narrow strip, beginning in the valley and rising to the summit of the hill ; sometimes one, two, or three miles long, and not a quarter of a mile broad. At the time when the leases were granted, that is, about the beginning of this century, this might be attended with many conveniences. The great object at that time for every farmer, was to have every thing he needed within his own farm : and by this division, he had his proportion of moss, and meadow, pasture, and arable ground. Whereas, had the farms been regularly laid out, this could not have been the case. This, however, is now a great bar to improvement. For the rich low grounds in the valley and its vicinity, by being intersected, and every farm by being intermixed with another in this irregular manner, cannot be inclosed to advantage ; of course, cannot be improved, from circumstances which are rather the misfortune than the fault of the tenants. For unless a general excambion were taking place, and every farm were new modelled, which is next to impossible,

ble,

ble, while the present leases last, the valley must lie open, and uninclosed ; and, therefore, continue to be poached all the winter : for this cause it is, that the worst, that is the high lying cold ground, which is allotted for pasture, is all inclosed : while the low, warm, rich valley, lies open ; a circumstance this, which is surely very uncommon in the present period.

It is chiefly owing to this circumstance, that every farmer is in some measure a grazier, though there are but few who follow that line to any great extent ; at the same time, it is much more attended to, than it was 40 or 50 years ago. Before the rebellion 1745, a great proportion, perhaps one tenth of the arable part of the parish, was cultivated. From the valley to the very brow of the hills, upwards of 800 feet above the level of the sea, almost every inclosure was ploughed in regular rotation. Whereas now, it is very uncommon to see one acre in 20 of those high grounds cultivated. The reason is obvious, and every one who looks at the grounds must see it. The fields are steep, and of course, very expensive in the culture : every plough requires 4, in some places would require 6 horses, and never less than two men. After all this labour and expence, the produce must be scanty, and the harvest late ; in some cases so late, as to endanger the crop, if not ruin it altogether. Besides, as lime is at a considerable distance, and the roads bad, and as dung cannot be conveyed from the valley, where the farm houses in general now stand, there is little probability of improving them to much advantage. For the expence of seed, labour, and manure, it is feared, would exceed the produce ; the high wages of men servants, the advanced price of horses, and of every utensil that is necessary, and the amazing expence of carrying manure in sufficient quantities to those high fields, are circumstances sufficient to discourage the farmer from

from making the attempt, or at least to account for his unwillingness to hazard it. But let it not be supposed that the high fields are useless, or of little value: on the contrary, they are rich and productive to the farmers; they are perhaps more productive than a great part of the ploughed land. They yield great abundance of the richest and earliest pasture in the west of Scotland; and being of a south exposure and uneven surface, they afford every variety of soil and shelter, either for summer or winter. The beautiful green hills, are covered with the sweetest pasture; the valleys, or rather intervening marshes, which are likewise numerous, produce abundance of coarse hay: and every little hill or inclosure, has its little rivulet. The demand for fat cattle has increased, and seems to be increasing, and the high grounds have for many years been entirely employed to feed cattle. It is generally allowed, that there is no strath in the west of Scotland more favourable for the purpose than the strath which lies westward from Kilsyth, through Campsie, and Strathblain *.

Horses,

* The graziers in this parish are an active industrious and respectable class of farmers: they seem to know their business well; and push it with considerable spirit. If they are liable to any errors, it may perhaps be the following:

1st, That they rather overstock their grounds, so that the cattle have not sufficient choice of the best pasture: and besides the coarse hay is thus greatly injured.

2d, In purchasing their cattle, they are not always at due pains to pick the best out of the flock; whereas, if they were to exclude all the shots, it would be ultimately for their interest, though the cattle were dearer in the mean time.

3dly, They run too much upon highland cattle: doubtless, they take on the beef fast, and feed very quickly, and when fed, are sweeter than larger cattle. But, perhaps, it would be the interest of the grazier, to buy up
large

Horses, Sheep, &c.—From the circumstances which have been mentioned, the number of plough horses must be greatly diminished, more especially as the two horse plough upon Small's construction, is generally used in the low grounds. The number of milk cows, but especially of fat cattle, must be in proportion increased; how much I cannot say. The following table, however, will exhibit a correct view of the whole live stock of the parish, and its supposed value, estimated by a proper judge.

		Supposed value on average.			Total.		
		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
N ^o . of Sheep	1000	0	10	6	525	0	0
Horses	290	12	0	0	3480	0	0
Milk cows	750	4	10	0	3375	0	0
Fattened do.	720	4	10	0	3240	0	0
					Total L.	10620	0 0

But besides the above, there is a great number of young cattle and horses, and likewise a few swine, which will at least raise the general value of the stock to L. 11000 ster. A milk cow yields from 8 to 12 pints of milk daily.

Produce,

large country cows for the richest of his pasture; and reserve the hilly grounds for the highland cattle.

These things, however, are more attended to now than heretofore.

The profits are of course greater. Each cow for summer grass meal, is allowed to yield from 20s. to 30s. at an average; when fed both in winter and summer, each yields from 35s. to 45s.

But in this account, I make no allowance for the loss of cattle, &c. &c. which is sometimes considerable.

Produce, &c.—The produce of the arable lands consists principally in oats, though partly in barley, potatoes, beans, rye grass, and hay. It is difficult to say, what proportion of acres there may be in each kind; there are not 2 acres in fallow, nor 3 in wheat and turnip, in the whole parish. But the following will be found to be a general estimate of the produce.

	Acres.	Aver. N ^o . of bolls p. acre.	Highest produce, bolls.	N ^o bolls.	Price per boll.			Total va- lue.		
					L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
Oats,	1600	5	10	8000	0	15	0	6000	0	0
Barley,	100	8	10	800	1	0	0	800	0	0
Potatoes,	200	80	120	16000	0	4	0	3200	0	0
Hay,	180	160	250	28800	0	0	4	480	0	0
				stone.						
Supposed produce of the parish					L. 10480			0 0		

Our oats yield from 12 to 16 pecks of meal in the boll. And it is universally understood, that a warm summer makes the crop yield well, and *vice versa*, though the fodder be plenty.

The table is not taken from an accurate measurement: but the produce per acre may be depended on. It is but seldom that the average rises above it, though in some fields it is equal to the last column.

Rye is seldom sown, at least in any quantity. I have never seen above an acre in one field: but the little that is raised, is uncommonly good. Wheat has been attempted, but we have not acquired the art of cultivating that precious grain to advantage: though our rich valley is peculiarly adapted to the purpose,

purpose, yet as it is not inclosed or subdivided, it cannot be sown with wheat to any advantage : for the winter poaching would ruin the crop. Much of the rising ground, if inclosed, summer fallowed, and properly manured, might likewise produce abundant crops of wheat. Flax is raised in small quantities, but chiefly for private use, and seldom for sale : and the quality of it is at all times more remarkable than the quantity. It is generally allowed to be of the finest grain and colour, of any in Stirlingshire *. Rye grass and clover have been introduced about 10 years ; and as they have turned out to great advantage, they are much run upon, at least by all who have proper inclosures for the purpose : though they are sometimes sown even for pasture in open fields.

But potatoes are the favourite produce of this parish, and it has been justly and long famous on this account :—I say justly and long ; for it not only gave birth to the gentleman who first introduced the culture of potatoes into the fields, by dibbling and hand-hoeing, but it was the scene of his earliest experiments : and, if the name of any man deserves to be handed down to succeeding ages, with honour and gratitude, it is that of *Robert Graham, Esq ; of Tamraver*. He, with a spirit truly patriotic, and a mind active and indefatigable, set vigorously to work in the cultivation of potatoes in the year 1739. Before that period, he and others had raised them in gardens : but there was a vulgar and a common prejudice,

* This last season, I knew 20 stone weight of flax raised from 4 pecks, and sold at 14s. the stone : as eight pecks are allowed to sow an acre, this was a produce equal to L. 28 ster. per acre. Besides that, 18 pecks of seed were saved off the above half acre, and sold at half price.

It was considered as a remarkably good, though not an uncommon crop.

prejudice, that they could be raised no where else to advantage. Mr Graham, to show the absurdity of this opinion, planted about half an acre of ground in the croft of Neillstone, where he then resided. This excited the attention of the neighbourhood, and the report of it was soon spread far and wide: infomuch, that people of all denominations, and some noblemen of the highest rank, (among whom was the unfortunate Earl of Perth), came to witness the plantation. And had they known the amazing benefit that was to accrue to the nation, from this fortunate attempt, they would have doubtless hailed the auspicious event, and erected a monument to Mr Graham on the spot. Regardless of the ignorant ridicule to which his first experiments exposed him, he prosecuted his favourite pursuit, with increasing ardour and success: and by his persevering industry, and uncommonly happy talent for prosecuting every species of improvement, he raised the cultivation of potatoes in the neighbourhood of Kilsyth, to a pitch scarcely yet, if at all surpassed any where; and to promote the same spirit, and spread the blessing far and wide, he rented lands in the vicinity of Renfrew, and Perth, Dundee, and Glasgow, Leith, and Edinburgh; and for many years obtained the premium for cultivating potatoes, till at last no competitor was found; all were compelled to yield the palm to him.

This will not perhaps appear so surprising, if the following facts are attended to.

After an endless variety of experiments, which he very properly recorded, but the record of which is unfortunately lost, he, in the year 1762, planted one peck of potatoes with the dibble, and in October following, raised from the same peck, 16 bolls and $\frac{1}{2}$ boll, or 264 pecks.

As this may appear surprising, if not incredible to some,

I am exceedingly happy to have it in my power to establish the fact upon the most unequivocal evidence. The gentlemen who were called to witness the planting and raising of the potatoes, very properly published an account of the whole operation in the Newspaper of the day, for the benefit of the public. And happily the original attestation is now in my hands.

A copy of it will surely be acceptable, and deemed strictly statistical; more especially, as it points out the manner in which the operation was carried on, and the very high state of improvement to which Mr Graham had arrived.

“ We John Marshall of Townhead, Henry Marshall of Ruck-hill, and Alexander Maxwell present bailie of Kilsyth, went at the desire of Robert Graham of Tamrawer, and attended his servants upon the 21st of April 1762.

“ We saw them measure an exact peck of potatoes, which we saw them plant with the dibble and draper. Each set was distant 18 and 21 inches length-ways of the ploughed ridge, and between 12 and 15 inches across the ridge.

“ And upon the 26th of October following, we did also attend Mr Graham’s servants, while raising the produce of the said peck of potatoes, which we then saw measured on the ground, amounting to 16 bolls and a half, which is 264 pecks, arising from the said one peck. The truth of all which is attested by us, and

“ Signed JOHN MARSHALL,

“ HENRY MARSHALL,

“ ALEXANDER MAXWELL.”

If

If the man who makes a single pile of grass or corn to grow, where there was none before, in the eyes of Dean Swift, deserved more of his country than all the politicians that ever lived, we leave it to the learned to weave a laurel crown for Mr Graham.

The method in which his operations were carried on, were ingenious and singular, and might have been described.

There is no branch of husbandry more attended to, nor prosecuted with more ingenuity and success by all classes, than the cultivation of potatoes. Every year there is some real, or imaginary improvement introduced; and it is eagerly adopted and prosecuted with much care and perseverance. I have known many try 8 or 10 species of seed in one season. This spirit they partly have imbibed from Mr Graham; but the success is principally owing to local circumstances. The soil is not only highly favourable, but every feuer has, and almost every inhabitant lays his account with taking, a small lot of ground, for the express purpose of raising potatoes. They have besides time and inclination to bestow great care, and attention, in planting, weeding, and dressing them. And their endeavours are generally crowned with success*.

Our

* The following seems to be the result of endless experiments.

1st, That the kidney potatoe is the best seed, most productive, and pleasant to the taste at the same time.

2dly, That ground which has never been broken up before, or at least, never produced potatoes, is by much the most productive; though not better manured than other ground.

3dly, That potatoes ought to be planted each set at the distance of 1 foot 6 inches, from each other; at least in the ridge, even when they are not drilled.

N. B. It is universally agreed, that potatoes when frequently repeated, or even oftener than once in 7 years on the same ground, are a very scourging crop; if once in two years, they speedily reduce the soil to a *caput mortuum*.

4thly, That

Our seed time is rather late in general. In the last week of March, or first of April, the oats are for the most part sown; though sometimes sown considerably later. Potatoes are
planted,

4thly, That each plant should be carefully boxed up with the hoe, if not drilled, or otherwise with the plough; as in that case, it becomes greatly more productive. For every time the earth is thrown up, the plant strikes out new fibres: and a succession of crop may thus be obtained. The lowest tire may be ripe and ready for eating, while the highest are scarcely formed. But where this is attempted, as it was often by Mr Graham, the plants ought to be 3 feet distant from each other, in all directions.

5thly, It is allowed that if the ground be lea or grass, the dung ought in that case, to be spread in harvest preceding; or at least, early in the spring; that it may in some measure be incorporated with the soil; before it be ploughed. Even in stubble it is deemed advantageous.

6thly, It is generally allowed that lime is very unfavourable for the cultivation of potatoes. It is even said, that the bad effects of it are experienced for 10 or 20 years. One of these is, that the crop of potatoes though large, is almost always scabbed or foul.

7thly, The seed is generally cut in pretty large sets, and kept a week or two if possible, before it be set. This is said to be a great advantage, particularly in wet grounds. It is said to make the potatoe spring sooner, and to prevent the seed from rotting. For being shrivelled and dried, and covered with a kind of tough rind, it is more capable of resisting the moisture, and at the same time, has an equal tendency to vegetate quickly.

8thly, A most productive crop may be raised of early potatoes, before the middle of July. And either turnips, greens, or grass-seeds, may be raised as a second crop. Yet the potatoes may yield of clear profit per acre, from L. 10 to 12.

9thly, In gardens and small plots, the stocks of greens and cabbage, are one of the best manures for potatoes. If dug in drills, and the stocks be laid in regularly, they both enrich the ground, and keep the soil open; and thereby give room for the shoots to spread.

Lastly, Great crops have been raised out of the young shoots, in place of sets.

planted, and the barley sown in the last week of April, and first of May.

The old people make a general remark, that the spring is much later, and the summers a great deal colder, than they were 40 or 50 years ago. Of course, that the harvest is not only later, but much more precarious.

One remarkable summer is mentioned about 40 years ago, in which the heat was so great at seed time, that the labourer could not endure it at noon. So that it was a common thing to sleep the greatest part of the day, and labour in the night. From barley seed-time, till barley harvest, there was not a shower, but copious dews; yet the crop was the most productive of any since that period; though the straw was short, and the sheaves few, and scarcely a stack to be seen in a barn-yard, the barns containing almost all the grain and fodder.

Price of Provisions.—As to the price of provisions, it is generally low. Beef, mutton and veal, are at least a penny per pound lower than in Glasgow; sometimes even two pence; lamb and butter always two pence. Eggs and poultry of all kinds are lower in proportion; so that it is needless to be more particular. It will doubtless serve the purpose of a statistical account better, to point out the comparative value of as many articles as possible, at different periods. And as I had occasion to consult an old memorandum book, belonging to Mr Cornwall of Banton, who was chamberlain to Lord Kilsyth in the year 1670, I find the precise price of the following articles, stated at that period; and in another manuscript of a private gentleman belonging to this parish, I find the same articles rated in the year 1745. I shall therefore state the account.

Prices

	Prices in the year 1670,	In 1745,	In 1795,
	L. s. d.	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
A boll of seed corn,	0 7 0	0 10 0	0 18 0
— of barley,	0 8 0	0 11 8	1 12 0
— of oat meal,	0 10 0	0 8 4	0 18 0
— of lime *,	0 0 6	0 0 6	0 0 6
A pound of butter,	0 0 4	0 0 3	0 0 9
A load of coals,	0 0 2	0 0 3	0 0 7½
A leg of mutton,	0 1 1	0 1 0 average	0 2 6
A pair of shoes to his Lordship,	0 1 8	0 2 6	0 7 6
Do. to his servant,	0 1 6	0 2 4	0 6 6
A score lean highland cows, each	0 13 4	1 18 0	3 12 0
A cows hide,	0 2 6	0 3 6 average	0 18 0

There are besides the above, a number of articles rated in Mr Cornwall's memorandum, but not in year 1745. A table of these may be acceptable.

	Rate of articles in 1676, and in 1795	
	L. s. d.	L. s. d.
A pound of tobacco,	0 1 6	0 0 0
powder, -	0 0 8	0 2 2
shot, -	0 0 3	0 0 4
A pint of wine, I suppose Scottish,	0 1 6	0 6 0
A barrel of herring, -	0 16 8	1 7 0
A stone salt butter,	0 5 8	0 13 0
A pair worsted stockings to my Lord,	0 2 2	0 6 6
of gloves to do.	0 1 4	0 3 0

A

* The measure was much larger than at present, each boll being a horse load.

A yard of linnen for shirts to my Lord,	0	0	10	0	3	6
Making 6 shirts to do.	0	1	0	0	6	6
A stone of lint,	0	10	0	0	14	0
To dressing a suit of cloaths, and } making stockings to my Lord, }	0	1	8	0	0	0

The following rate of wages and annual fees, &c. is mentioned also, in the same period.

	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
His Lordship's groom's fee,	5	8	0	18	0	0
A thicker a day with meat,	0	0	5	0	1	8
A dyke builder do.	0	0	6	0	1	8
A coallier do.	0	0	10	0	3	6
A labourer do.	0	0	6	0	1	6
A tradesman do.	0	0	8	0	2	0
A leg of beef	0	5	0	1	0	0
A cow's tongue,	0	0	4	0	1	0
A horses hay and corn all night in Glasg.	0	0	9	0	1	8
To one horse shoe and 3 removes,	0	0	7	0	1	3

In the following articles the comparison cannot be so easily stated, but they are distinctly marked in the same record in 1676.

	L.	s.	d.
An advocate's retaining fee for my Lord,	20	0	0
The chamberlayn's allowance,	44	0	0
A year's board for my Lord at Glasgow college,	82	0	0
A phyfician from Glasgow for a visit,	1	4	0
Do. do. from Edinburgh do.	4	10	0
A furgeon's visit from Glasgow,	0	7	3
To the phyfician's man	0	4	3
A furnished velvet hunting cap to my Lord,	1	5	0
Vol. XVIII.	0	0	A

	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A hat to my Lord,	0	12	0
A gun to do.	0	16	8
A pair pocket pistols,	1	13	0
Do. hufsters furnished	0	18	0
A fuit of cloths for his Lordship's page,	0	15	0
A saddle and bridle furnished to my Lord,	1	0	3
Matriculating his Lordship's arms,	1	8	0
Small feeds for his Lordship's garden yearly,	0	4	10
	<i>L.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
A stone of skimmed milk cheefe,	0	4	6
Do. of sweet milk not skimmed,	0	8	0
A threave of straw for thatch,	0	3	0
A stone of do. do.	0	0	2
A stone of tarry wool,	0	7	0
Of white do.	0	9	6
A mutchkin of sweet milk,	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
A Scottish pint of churned do.	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Weaving a yard of linnen,	0	0	8
A man, a horse and cart per day,	0	5	0
A spindle of linnen yarn spun,	0	1	6
A peck of potatoes dug for,	0	0	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
A wood cutter a day,	0	1	3
A pealer do.	0	0	8
A stone of bark,	0	1	6
100 slabs 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet long,	0	3	6
Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet long,	0	4	6

The rent of lands bore much the same proportion. At the above period, I find the very best lands in the valley, set from year to year, at the rate of 10s. ster. the acre. At this moment, they yield from 50s. to L. 3 ster. A great part of the valley is set at that rate: but, I suppose it would not yield

yield so much upon a lease of 19 years. In general the rents are very low in this parish, as the leases were many of them granted about the beginning of this century. An acre in potatoes or flax, if prepared for the crop, lets at L. 6 sterling.

The wages of servants have risen in a still greater proportion. They are nearly triple to what they were even 40 years ago. Independent of his food, a ploughman expects from L. 10 to L. 12; a maid servant from L. 3 to L. 4. A hay cutter charges 2s. 6d. a day, a reaper in harvest 2s. a female do. 1s. 6d. When engaged by the week and finding his own provisions, a man receives 9s. and a female 7s. weekly. A weaver can earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. a day at an average.

Antiquities, &c.—The antiquities in this parish are not very remarkable: yet a few deserve a place in this account.

This district must have been the scene of contention, and the field of blood for many generations; perhaps from the days of Agricola, till the civil war in 1646. It seems to have been without the fixed limits of the Roman empire. For the south boundary of the parish runs nearly parallel to Graham's Dyke for upwards of 6 miles. In that district of the wall, it is never more than half, nor less than a quarter of a mile south of this parish. At Westerwood, and Bar-hill, there are two distinct Roman Forts; and of course, two Pictish forts in this parish corresponding to these: Cunny park to the former, and Balcastle to the latter. The last mentioned is by much the most remarkable. It is perhaps the most beautiful, regular, and entire of any Pictish fort in Scotland. It is placed in the angle of two small rills, near a farm house called Castle town,

or Balcastle, on that account ; and, it rises regularly on all sides at an angle of 45 degrees, so that the form of it resembles the top of a hat ; but it is not equally high all around. On the south it is about 40 feet, on the north only 20 perpendicular : and it has been surrounded on all sides by a foss, which might easily be filled with water by the rivulets on either side. At the base it is nearly 100 yards in diameter ; at the summit, which is flat, it is scarcely 50, and is quite circular. There is a tradition that it is hollow within ; and some pretend to have seen the mouth of the mine open, which leads to the cavity. But, if there ever was such a mine, it is now entirely shut up, and there is not the smallest vestige of any subterraneous passage at present.

The sloping sides of this mound are covered with broom and brushwood. The top, though once overgrown also, is now cleared, and often cultivated, and produces excellent potatoes and oats.

The other fort at Cunny park seems not to have been so regular or large. At least it is not now so entire : and scarcely deserves to be mentioned.

Besides these, there have been other Roman antiquities found in this parish and neighbourhood. For an account of these, I refer the reader to Horfeley's *Britannia*, and Henry's history. They are mostly lodged in the university of Glasgow. That learned society have thrown off copper-plate impressions of all the Roman antiques in their possession.

There are several circular fortifications, called chesters, which bear evident marks of great antiquity. The most remarkable are at Auchincloch, Auchinvillie, and Townhead. They are all similar to each other, and much about the same size ;

size; being nearly 40 or 50 yards diameter. The outer wall or inclosure, for some of them have evident marks of smaller, but irregular inclosures within, consists of a rude mass, of large and small tumbling stones, built without any regularity or order; and without mortar of any kind. In times of ignorance and barbarism, they may however have been places of considerable strength. Though it seems very uncertain for what purpose they were at first erected.

That they were strong holds, or places of defence, or shelter, seems unquestionable. Indeed the name they bear, seems to indicate this much; for chester in Gaelic, signifies a *camp*. And as the name is of Gaelic original, for this as well as other reasons, I am disposed to think they are of greater antiquity, than even Agricola's wall, or Graham's dyke. Perhaps they are coeval with the Roman forts; and it is generally allowed, that these were formed before the wall.

If this be the case, in all probability, these chesters may have been intended as places of refuge, for the women and children, and the defenceless and unarmed inhabitants of this district. To them they would naturally fly for shelter, in case of an unexpected defeat, or sudden incursion of the Roman invaders. The situation and structure of these fortifications, seem both to favour this conjecture. They are situated at no great distance from the Roman wall; lying along the north side of the valley, which was the boundary of that empire. Besides this, they contain a number of small subdivisions, like the ruins of rude huts, which might have served for shelter from the storm; as the great outer wall was for safety from the invader.

This at least seems a more plausible conjecture, than that they were intended as a place of security for cattle, and the other stock and moveables of the natives. They are too small to contain any considerable number of cattle. And besides
the

the neighbouring mountains, furnish in a thousand different places, protection, as well as pasture for cattle, to much better purpose. Nor is it likely, that they were intended as a defence from the wolves, and ravenous beasts. The wall that surrounds them, seems to be a work of much greater labour and strength, than was necessary for this purpose.

But if we suppose, as is surely very likely, that the Caledonians had a standing army always along the line of the Roman wall, they, though fearless of danger, and disdaining all shelter, but the strength of their own arm, must necessarily have been attended with a number of women, and defenceless followers. These needed, and naturally sought for a place of refuge. And such a refuge, the chesters might afford *

3

But

* Nature seems to have marked out this strath, as the boundary of the Roman Empire. Whether it was pitched upon from necessity or choice, I cannot say. But the following particulars will make it appear, that it was the most eligible place for raising up a barrier against the native Caledonians.

1st, It is by much the narrowest place in the whole Island. The Frith of Forth and Clyde intersect the kingdom for many miles on either side.

2dly, It is besides the north boundary of the lowlands. The whole country to the north, appears to a stranger, to be an endless succession of bleak and barren mountains.

3dly, The whole strath of Kelvin, seems to have been an impassible morass. In some places, I suppose the whole valley was covered with water: From this westward to the Clyde, it was therefore a natural barrier of itself. From the Dullatur bog eastward, it seems to have been entirely under water. Camelodunum seems to have been a sea-port town. If it was so, the whole valley to Kilsyth parish, must have been an arm of the sea, though not navigable, yet next to impassible. Had it not been for these natural advantages of situation, the Roman wall must have been a feeble defence against the hardy, brave, and free sons of Caledonia.

In more than one place, there seems to have been artificial mounds raised in the valley, to throw it under water.

The

But this is given merely as a conjecture. For though many of the stones have been removed, there never has been found the smallest vestige of any inscription, nor even of any character whatever upon them.

The *tumuli* in this parish are probably of equal antiquity with the chesters. These however, have never been numerous, or considerable; and they have all been rased to the foundation, for many years. The larger stones have been used for building inclosures, the smaller for the highways. I have been able only to trace the site of two of these tumuli. The one at a field near Auchincloch, which I am told in Gallic, signifies a field of stones. The other about 600 yards east from Chapel green. That they were erected as monuments over the dead is generally allowed, as urns containing the ashes of the dead, have been found in most, if not in all that have been examined.

But the question still remains, by what nation were they erected? If by the native Caledonians, why have urns been found in them, with evident marks of the bodies having been burnt? If by other nations, whence came they? For though some may be supposed to be Roman, they cannot all be so, as the greatest part of them are beyond the Roman boundary. And yet there is a very striking similarity in the structure of them, which would argue they were the work of one nation. But for what end were such mighty piles huddled together, in such a rude confused mass, and with such immense labour and drudgery, upon the summit of very high hills too, where scarcely

The Ban-hill, seems to me to have been the most important fort. It is nearly central; and commands a view of the wall for nearly half its length; and it overlooks the whole strath to the north. Besides, it is nearly opposite to the only narrow place of the valley; where a passage could be forced with the greatest expedition.

scarcely a stone was to be found? If it was merely to commemorate the achievements of the dead, or as a monument to his praise; how comes it that there never has been found any inscription, or even hieroglyphic, to point out the names, designation, character, or country of the deceased? If it was merely to defend the body from the ravenous wolves, and wild beasts, one tenth, in many cases, one hundredth part of the pile might have sufficed. And besides, the body seems to have been burned; so that there was no danger from that quarter. It seems, however, certain, that these were the works not of any individual, or family; but of a whole clan, or tribe, or nation. Perhaps they were the work of ages. All nations pay veneration to the ashes of the dead; and I believe there are none so rude and uncivilized, as to have no monuments. In early ages, the natives of this island, might fall upon this method of distinguishing the graves of great heroes, and eminent saints. As a tribute of esteem, every traveller as he passed, would naturally add his stone to the heap; so that although small at first, it would increase from year to year, in proportion to the veneration that was paid to the deceased. In evidence of this, it is said, that a similar custom still prevails in the highlands of Scotland; and almost every cairn or tumulus, has its respective name, as Angus-cairn, &c.

One of the cairns in this parish, likewise records the name of some saint or hero. It is near a place called Kelvin-head. Now, as *kel*, or *cuil*, or *cella* signifies a cell, or burying ground; so *vean*, or *bean*, which in Gallic are the same, is the name of a Culdee saint; or, according to some, of *Fin-gal*, the Caledonian hero. At all events, this tumulus seems to have been the burying place of *Vean*. And hence the origin of the names in the neighbourhood of it, as *Bean-ton*, or, as it is now contracted, *Banton*; *Beanemyre*; *Tom-vean*,
or

or *bean*; and *Kelvin* is the name of the river, which rises very nearly where the cairn stood.

There are both in the east and west barony a few monuments of feudal tyranny. In the *Bar-wood*, (from whence it doubtless derived its name,) there is an eminence still called the *Court hill*, where the haughty Barons were wont to sit in judgement. And near *Quinzie-burn* in the west barony, there is an eminence called the *Gallow-hill*, where the sentence was put in execution. The very place where the gallows stood, is still pointed out. These serve only to recall to mind the days of cruel despotism, when, at the call of a lawless tyrant, the defenceless, perhaps innocent victim, was dragged from his peaceful lowly cot; and in one single day, without evidence of his guilt, or an opportunity of acquittal, was arraigned, tried, condemned, and executed! And while we heave a sigh over the sorrows of our fathers, the very recollection of that slavery under which they groaned and bled, makes us lift up our eyes in grateful homage, and bless indulgent heaven, that we are happy and free!

At different periods, and in a variety of places in this parish, there have been a number of ancient coins found. But the greatest part by far has been concealed from the public. Of those that have been seen, part have been of gold, part of copper, but the greatest number of silver, and of all sizes, from a three penny piece, to that of a crown. A few may still be recovered, and at a very trifling expence, for they are regarded only as bullion; and as far as I have seen, would not be much esteemed by the antiquarian.

The greatest part have been found along the field, where the battle of *Kilsyth* was fought. It belongs not to me to give any detail of that engagement in this place. Suffice it only to say, that every little hill and valley, bears the name, or records the deeds of that day. So that the situation of

each army can be distinctly traced. Such as the Bullet and Baggage-know, the Drum-burn, the Slaughter-how or hollow, *Kill e many butts*, &c. &c. In the Bullet know and neighbourhood, bullets are found every year; and in some places so thick, that you may lift 3 or 4 without moving a step. In the Slaughter how, and a variety of other places, bones and skeletons, may be dug up every where; and in every little bog or marsh for three miles, especially in the Dullatur bog, they have been discovered in almost every ditch. The places where the bodies lie in any number, may be easily known; as the grass is always of a more luxuriant growth in summer, and of a yellowish tinge in spring and harvest. The hilt of a sword, and part of a saddle, with a variety of coins, have been found in different places; and at one time, a gold ring with an escutcheon was discovered; but it is now lost, or in the possession of some person unknown to me.

The little hill where the gallant Graham encamped the night before the engagement, is somewhat remarkable. The tents have been raised with sod, and it is easy at this day, to distinguish the place where they stood, and the form and size of each. The station was extremely well chosen, and gave him every advantage over the enemy, perhaps in a great measure enabled him to decide the combat.

The carnage must have been dreadful. And the consequences were fatal, and long felt by the defenceless inhabitants. Like every other civil war, it was carried on with the keenest contention, and unrelenting cruelty. Many of the peasantry were butchered, and many more plundered. To this day, numberless scenes of blood and cruelty are recorded. One in particular is mentioned. A poor country man having fled with his four sons, was overtaken by a flying party. Being suspected by them, they instantly fell upon the old man, though feeble and unarmed. The generous youths
clung

clung around their aged fire, either to plead for, or defend him. In this posture it is said, they were all cut to pieces, and now lie in one tomb.

On this article I may mention, that there is a very fine arched vault, or burying ground, under the church. This was originally erected by the family of Kilsyth; and it has been their burying ground for many generations. As the estate was forfeited, and the title became extinct in the year 1715, it has never been used as a burying ground since that period. The unfortunate Viscount himself fled to Flanders; and though he returned more than once, *incog.* in the habit of a common beggar, and as such, lodged with several of his tenants, and secured a considerable quantity, if not the whole of his silver plate, yet it is certain, he was not buried in Kilsyth. The tradition is, and it is said to be confirmed by a variety of people, and even by some papers and letters lately found, that he and a number of the unfortunate Noblesse, were either murdered, or died by a sudden accident in Holland, about the year 1717.

The last that was buried in this place, was his lady. She is said to have been of the family of Dundee*. Her body
P p 2 being

* Jean, daughter of Lord William Cochrane, son and heir of William Earl of Dundonald. She was first married to John Viscount of Dundee; then to the Viscount of Kilsyth. Her son died in infancy.

See Crawford's Peerage, Dundee, Dundonald.

Lady Kilsyth with her infant son, was smothered or killed in Holland, or Flanders, by the falling of a roof, along with her husband. It has been supposed that the thing happened not by accident, but design; that several considerable persons who had been concerned in the Rebellion 1715, were involved in it, as well as the family of Kilsyth; and that only two of the whole company escaped, by being seated in a window. That this account is in general true, may be seen from letters lately found (in 1780), among the papers in the Advocates library, which refer to Kilsyth. The fact is detailed besides

being embalmed, was sent over to Scotland soon after, and buried in great pomp, at Kilfyth. It was inclosed, first in a leaden coffin, nicely cemented; that again with a very strong wooden coffin. The space between the two coffins, was filled up with a white matter, somewhat of the consistency and colour of putty; but of a rich and delicious aromatic flavour. It is but a few years ago, since this matter was laid open, by the decay of the wooden coffin. And a few weeks ago, the lead coffin was perfectly entire. But some rude thoughtless people, having gone to visit the tomb, with sacrilegious hands tore up the lead covering. To their great surprise, they found under it a board of fir, as clean and fresh, as if it had been formed yesterday. This being loosened, by the removal of the lead, they, to their utmost astonishment, found the body of Lady Kilfyth, and her child, as entire as the hour they were entombed.

Every feature, and every limb, is as full, nay the very shroud is as clear and fresh, and the ribbans as bright, as the very day they were lodged in the tomb. What renders the scene truly interesting as well as striking, is, that the body of her son and only child, the natural heir of the titles and estates of Kilfyth, lies at her knee. His features are as composed, as if he were only asleep. His colour is as fresh, and his flesh as full, as if in the perfect glow of health. He seems to have been an infant of the age of 3 months.

The body of Lady Kilfyth, is equally well preserved: and it would not be easy for a stranger to distinguish with his eye, whether she is dead or alive. For, with the elegant
style

in Dalrymple's Memoirs. The wound which Lady Kilfyth received was on the right temple; and is still as distinct, as on the day she received it. The child seems to have received no other injury, than that of being smothered in the arms of its mother.

style in which she is dressed, the vivid colour of the ribbons, the freshness of her looks, and the fulness of her features, she arrests the attention, and interests the heart. And unfeeling as the grave must that heart be, which doth not heave a sigh at the sight.

For my part, it excited in my mind a thousand melancholy reflections. But above all, the deepest regret, that such violence had been offered to her ashes, as to lay them open to view.

Happily there is not one fold of her shroud discomposed, nor a single feature or member yet impaired. But I fear, that being now exposed to the open air, and the fine aromatic fluids within the coffin daily evaporating, the body must soon moulder into dust. To prevent this, the coffin has been closed with as great care as possible, and the access to the tomb is shut.

The liquid in which the body has been preserved (and the coffin seems to have been full it, for the whole shroud is saturated with it), seems to be a pure ardent spirit, of the colour and consistency of brandy, or rather spirit of wine. But though perfectly pure, it has entirely lost all its pungent qualities, and seems now quite vapid.

The tomb is an arched vault 16 feet square and quite shut up; but, from what it contained, the air of it is as sweet, pure, and odoriferous as a ball room.

I have only to add, that there is in my possession an old manuscript, much mutilated, which seems to be a chronicle of Scotland. Much of it is yet legible. It takes up the history of Scotland at the christian æra; and contains a regular series of all the remarkable events in every king's reign, with the name of the kings, down to the year 1565. I have compared it with many memoirs, histories, and annals of Scotland, but as far as I can yet learn, it is an original, and not a copy. I think it may be valuable.

This

This parish has in common with others experienced years of scarcity, on which a few remarks are subjoined in a note *.

Miscellaneous

* Great scarcity approaching to a famine. The most remarkable was during the 7 last years of the last century. And for that reason, they are called the 7 dear years. There may perhaps have been one, or even two years successively of as great scarcity since that period: but there never has been more. Of course, the evil was more lasting and more generally felt at that time, than ever since: and in all probability accumulated every year; till at last the absolute necessities of life could scarcely be got for any money. The price of provisions was exorbitant. Barley meal, though very inferior in quality, was sold at a merk the peck; oats rose to the enormous sum of L. 30 Scots the load, while oat meal was not to be purchased. For though several of the more opulent inhabitants went to Falkirk, the richest corn country within 30 miles, they could procure no supply at any price. Greens boiled with salt, became a common food. Fodder was as scarce as grain. Many of the cattle perished at the stall, and many of them who were driven out to seek a scanty pittance expired in the field. Mothers fell down dead with their infants at their breasts. Even many of the people who survived, were feeble and emaciated, and became a prey to numberless and fatal diseases. The mortality was so great, that a pestilence seems to have succeeded the famine.

The causes of this scarcity are not known. But it is said, that the harvests were late, and the winters early; so that the frost and snow blasted the growing corns.

Various shifts not known since, were tried in order to ward off the evil. Among the rest it is mentioned, that snails were collected in summer with great care, and salted for the winter's store.

Indulgent Heaven has been more liberal to us. So that this generation has never known want, like that which our fathers experienced. The year 1740, was a year of scarcity, perhaps equal to any one of the 7 dear years. Oat meal rose to the exorbitant price of 2s. the peck: and at one time could scarcely be procured for money. Every other necessary of life was in proportion dear: yet few, if any, died of absolute want. As money, however, was scarce, and manufactures almost unknown among us, numbers whose situations gave them no reason to expect it, were through want of employment reduced to the humiliating necessity of craving a scanty pittance from door to door. Others were supplied from the poor's funds, in a more private manner. The number of Paupers was thus greatly increased; and their necessities and demands increased in proportion. Of course, the parish funds were deemed insufficient, and an assessment became necessary. Yet this is the only year since the Revolution, that the session were driven to this expedient.

The

Miscellaneous Remarks.—A few remarkable phenomena which have appeared in this parish, are likewise subjoined in a note *.

Eminent

The causes of this scarcity are generally known. The harvest was late. The corns of course were greatly injured by the winter frost, which set in early and severe. Potatoes, though introduced into this parish, were only cultivated in very small quantities by Mr Graham. Even those that were raised, were not preserved with such care as to protect them from the storm, which was uncommonly severe. Many fowls, some cattle, and a few of the wild animals, were frozen to death. Many of the people were frost bitten. And much of the furze, broom, and brushwood, and of course, all the greens and garden stuffs, decayed and became useless.

It is almost unnecessary to mention, that there was a considerable scarcity in the year 1782. I believe it was generally felt; and in other districts more sensible than here. The potatoes though a most luxuriant crop were rather late, and they were totally lost. The corn harvest was also late. The winter was early; so that a great part of the oats were never ripened. And no small part was rotted in the field after it was reaped. Even that part which was preserved, was not productive. The following year added to the calamity, for the seed being generally bad, and equally scarce, the produce of course was small. The poor had less to sow, and what was sown was much less productive; so that upon the whole, that year was not much more abundant than the former. And, had it not been for a very seasonable supply of white pease, both the poor and the rich must have been in a deplorable condition. Even the respectable farmers, who have generally meal enough and to spare, were reduced to the necessity of buying one peck of meal after another. Yet the price never much exceeded 1s. 6d.

The inhabitants of the village, especially the society of weavers, very wisely laid out a part of their funds, for purchasing that necessary article, at the lowest wholesale prices: and retailed it at prime cost. This proved a great relief to multitudes. For meal was thus almost always to be had here, and at a lower price than could naturally have been expected. The society lost little or nothing; at the utmost only the interest of their money for a few months.

In the year 1793, and 1794, the great stagnation of trade, and the almost total want of employment, bore hard on the manufacturing class of inhabitants. And had the same circumstances operated in same degree for a single year more, all ranks and denominations must have felt the consequences.

* In the year 1733, on the 27th June, there was a very remarkable thunder storm. The morning was fair: the sky clear: the sun bright. About

Eminent Men.—This parish has produced a few eminent men, whose names ought to be recorded.

“ Sir William Livingstone of Kilsyth, was a man of much
“ penetration

11 o'clock, A. M. a gleaming, but gloomy darkness overspread the sky. The sun was shorn of his beams, and put on a dismal dark copper colour.

The cloud that overcast the sky, arose in the south west. At first it appeared very small: but as it approached, it became darker and larger, and gleamed with lightning. And as the darkness increased, the flashes became more vivid.

About one o'clock, this cloud reached our hills. The lightnings flashed incessant: the thunder roared tremendous, and the mountains seemed to shake. At first, a few dropping fragments of broken ice of great size fell. This was a happy warning to all who were in the fields to fly for shelter. Had they remained without, they must have been greatly hurt, for some of the hail measured 3 inches in circumference; some say a great deal larger. And it fell in such quantities, as to cover the surface some inches deep. It was noon next day before it melted away.

The damage done by the hail was very considerable; and by the flood from the hills still more so. The barley which was beginning to shoot, the flax, which was then in the bloom, and the pease and beans, which had begun to blossom, were almost irrecoverably lost, being cut and dashed to the ground, by the hail. The corns in the vallies were greatly injured by the rapidity of the flood, though it was only of a few hours duration. As if a water spout had fallen, and some suppose this was the case, the face of the hills, which an hour before were parched, was covered with numberless torrents, so as to have the appearance of a great collection of cataracts. Every rill became a river, sweeping houses, bridges, corn, and cattle, all before it, with irresistible fury. The consequences of this flood were felt for years, and the devastation it occasioned may yet partly be seen. Several acres in the vallies, were overlaid with stones of all sizes, from stones of 20 tons, to the smallest gravel. In some places this layer was 4 or 6 feet deep; and a part of them still remain. At a moderate calculation, the damage done in this parish, though fortunately it extended only to this, was upwards of L. 1000 sterling. See beginning of Mr Robe's narrative.

Happily no lives were lost, though many narrowly escaped. A woman
and

“ penetration and considerable learning. Being especially
 “ eminent in the knowledge of the law, he was appointed
 “ one of the senators of the College of Justice in 1609. And
 “ having distinguished himself in that office by his assiduity
 “ and abilities, he was in a few years admitted to be one of
 “ his Majesty’s Privy Council, and constituted Vice-Cham-
 “ berlain of Scotland. He died about 1627.”

“ Mr

and child in her arms, were slightly injured by the lightning sitting at her own fire, while a cat was killed at their feet. Some women who were bleaching clothes in the valley, narrowly escaped the rapidity of the torrent, by climbing up a thorn tree which was hard by. This thorn still stands in the valley. Many cattle were swept away, along with the houses in which they stood. It is said, that some of these were left alive, when the flood subsided. It is even said, that an infant in a cradle was carried several hundred yards along the stream, and yet was found safe.

In the years 1769 and 70, when the great canal was cut through the Dullatur bog, there appeared a very singular phenomenon. Myriads of small toads, each about the size of a nut, or small turkey bean, were seen hopping over all the adjacent fields, to the extent of several miles square. Ten, sometimes twenty or thirty, might be collected in one square yard. So that when you looked along the surface of the ground, they appeared hopping like hail stones. What was very singular, they were all going in one direction, directly north; yet they were never seen beyond the summit of the hill; nor any where in any quantity the ensuing spring.

It is supposed they came originally from the Dullatur bog, which is a large and very deep morass; and in all likelihood it has once been a lake. For at present, it is only covered with a thin matted turf, or sward. Under that, there is in most places, a great body of water, though in some, of flow moss. And near the west end of it, there is a small dry rising ground covered with wood, which is called the *ealan*, or in English the island. From all which I am disposed to think, that in the time of the Romans, perhaps since that period, it was one deep extensive lake. Yet it never sent forth at any other period in the memory of man, any such swarm of reptiles. These, though innumerable, were all of one age and size. If it were to send forth such a swarm annually, the whole country would soon be overrun.

“ Mr John Livingston was likewise a native of this parish.
“ He was born in the year 1603. His father was a relation
“ of the family of Kilsyth, and possessed a small estate in
“ the east barony. It would appear, that the name of this
“ estate was Monaeburgh. The greatest part of the village
“ is built upon it, though the boundaries of it are not well
“ known.”

“ Mr Livingston was a man of letters and piety. Early
“ in life, he devoted himself to the study of divinity. He
“ held a charge in the ministry first in Ireland. After
“ spending a number of years in this charge, he was trans-
“ lated to Stranraer, and next to Ancrum near Jedburgh.
“ He was intelligent, active, zealous, and successful in
“ promoting the interests of pure and undefiled religion.
“ His memory is still dear; and though the memoirs he
“ wrote are in few hands, they are eagerly read by the inha-
“ tants of Kilsyth.”

“ His life, transactions, and death, are narrated at some
“ length. He died in the year 1672.”

“ I have had occasion to mention, that Mr Robert
“ Graham of Tamrawer, was a native of this parish; and
“ that his name deserves to be handed down to posterity,
“ on account of his very successful experiments upon the cul-
“ tivation of potatoes.”

“ It may perhaps deserve to be mentioned, that there
“ is a family of the name of Stevenson, who for many
“ generations have been eminently useful, and much em-
“ ployed in restoring dislocated joints, and dressing bro-
“ ken limbs. Though in a great measure ignorant of
“ the theory, they have at least acquired the practice; and
“ in all generations, as well as this, have been often suc-
“ cessful.”

Mode of Living, &c.—A great variety of changes in the external appearance and mode of living of the inhabitants, have taken place within the last 50 years. The most obvious and remarkable of these may be mentioned.

In their dress, there is a very visible change. Formerly, the most respectable farmers, used to wear nothing but Scotch cloth, generally of their own making, plaiding hose, and blue bonnets. Now, the servant men on holidays wear nothing else than English cloth, cotton and thread stockings, and hats. The females formerly, wore nothing but a linen head dress, and tartan worsted plaids, which covered the head, or at best red scarlet cloaks. Whereas now, every maid servant wears a silk bonnet and cloak, and generally muslin or printed gowns, and thread stockings. So that the men and women servants, are now much more gayly dressed, than their masters and mistresses were formerly.

In their mode of living, similar if not greater changes have taken place. Formerly no wheat bread was used, excepting by the family of Kilsyth, or on extraordinary occasions, such as marriages, funerals, or perhaps on a fair or market day. Whereas now, it is almost universally used, by all denominations, at least to breakfast. Oat meal, milk, cheese, and butter, were the principal food of all, and of many the only fare. Little or no beef, mutton, or veal, was used. Even opulent farmers thought it extravagant to salt the carcase of a whole cow, for winter. And the most respectable tradesmen never used more than a leg of beef, in the year. So that in the whole village, there were not 12 cows killed; and probably not twenty-four in the whole parish. Whereas now, every tradesman has his mart; and every farmer uses one, many two or three, in the year. So that, at an average,

verage, there are 160 killed in the village, and 280 in the parish every year, besides a very considerable number of sheep, calves, and lambs in their season.

Tea was not known in this parish 40 years ago. Whereas now, it is almost universally used, and by a great many both in the morning and afternoon.

The employments of the inhabitants are very different from what they were. The females formerly devoted by much the greatest part of their time to spinning flax; the rest was spent in preparing the flax and tow, and working in the fields in spring, hay time, and harvest. Now, spinning is much disused, especially by the young. There are several hundreds of young girls from 8 to 14, who never spin at all. Perhaps the greater part of them, have never learned that useful art. Tambouring is now the chief employment. Every species of needle work occupies the rest; excepting a few mothers and younger children of manufacturers, who are employed in preparing the yarn for the loom. Only a few of the farmers wives and servants are employed in spinning linen yarn.

The males in the town for the most part were labourers; though there were a few tradesmen. Now there are a very few labourers, but a great proportion of tradesmen of all denominations, especially of weavers; and every person may now find employment.

This may account for a striking change that has taken place, and been much observed by the older class, that this generation marries in general much younger than the former; especially the tradesmen. Many of the males marry below 20, and the greatest part below 25; whereas formerly they seldom married below 30. The most part of the females marry below 20; whereas formerly 25 or 30 was the ordinary

ordinary age. The reason of this may be, that a numerous family of children *all idle*, necessarily became burdensome; whereas now every child, male or female, above 6 years of age, can find employment; and a numerous thriving family is a great support to a sober industrious tradesman.

The common utensils of a family are very different from what they were 50 years ago. At that period, there were no tea kettles, tea dishes, bellows, nor watches, and very few clocks. Now, every family can furnish these articles. There were few spinning wheels, still fewer check reels; in place of these, the *rock* and hand reel were used. There were no lint nor barley milns; of course, the lint was dressed at home, in each family; and the barley bruised in a stone mortar. Every farmer had his own kiln for drying his corns. A common kiln is now erected near each miln, where every farmer gets his grain dried at 6d per boll. There were no carts nor wheel carriages of any kind. All the grain was carried on horseback, or in harvest, upon sledges or cars.

Indeed the roads were at that time so steep, narrow, and rugged, that wheel carriages must have been almost useless. The line of the roads was generally straight, or nearly so, over hill and dale; or if they deviated from this course at any time, it was only to avoid some marsh, or to find a firm bottom. They seem to have thought of little else, at least they never dreamed of a level road. Now the roads are good, and carts and wheel carriages of all kinds abound.

But the most remarkable changes have taken place in the course of 25 years. The introduction of manufactures, and the great canal, have been the principal causes of them.

The species of manufactures most run upon is the muslin. Some of these are only a 1000, others 1700, and even 2000 reed; and of every species. There are at least 350 hands thus employed. Supposing each hand to work 3 yards per day,

day, that will amount to upwards of 300,000 yards annually. At 6d per yard, which may be the average, that will amount to L. 7500, as the total earning of that craft yearly. By this account, every weaver is supposed to earn about L. 21 : 8s at an average. And it is an undoubted fact, that an ordinary tradesman can easily earn at least 1s a-day all the year round, making allowance for ordinary avocations. It is said, that a sober, industrious, and active hand, can even earn from 2s to 4s a-day, or at an average all the year round, 1s 6d, making reasonable allowances for avocations.

N. B. The fly shuttle is commonly used, and allowed to be a great improvement.

Allowing him to have 3 or 4 sons working with him, though each son earn but half the wages of his father, the amount is very considerable, and may enable a tradesman to live well; and at the same time, provide liberally for his family. If he has daughters, their earnings at tambouring, may be very nearly at an average, 4d each day; though it is said, when this branch was first introduced, they could make from 1s to 2s a-day. Even now, they sometimes can earn a shilling. Supposing the tambourers to be 280, their joint earnings at 4d daily, will amount to upwards of L. 1200 sterling; or nearly L. 5 annually each. But this is doubtless a very low estimate. I suppose at an average of old and young, and making every allowance, they earn at least L. 6 each*.

Various

* About 3 years ago, Titus Harris from London began the cotton manufactory in this parish. From very small beginnings, and some say with no capital, he, in the course of 12 months, raised the business to a considerable height, and employed many hands. At one time, he had 10 or 12 spinning jennies employed. But either owing to great mismanagement or misfortune, or perhaps to both, he instantly gave way; by which means, a few families in
this

Various other branches of manufactures have been introduced here. But excepting the making of fiddles, they have generally failed. At present, there are about 5 or 6 hands constantly employed in this branch. Their earnings are not known; and in the situation they are at present, it would be improper to make them public. They furnish generally about 1600 dozen of fiddles every year; and send them all over Scotland, especially to the north.

The making of files was also attempted. And it might have succeeded, had it not been owing to accidental circumstances, which made it be removed elsewhere. The greatest number that ever were employed in this branch, was 8 or 9. And they furnished about 3000 dozen yearly.

The starch manufactory was at one time begun, and there was a fair prospect of success. But by mismanagement or misfortune, it was given up.

At present, there is only one who tans hides in the parish. But 30 years ago, there were several. About that period, there were two breweries likewise employed; but they are both given up.

It is said, that there are some marks of the truth of the tradition, that, in Roman Catholic times, the parson carried
on

this parish, and many elsewhere, were deeply involved. It may afford some picture of the times, and of the credulity of this nation, or at least neighbourhood, to narrate his history. With his staff in one hand, and his bundle in another, he arrived at Kilsyth altogether a stranger. At first he seemed to have little or no command of cash; and of course little credit. Even for some months, he was looked upon with a jealous eye.

But having got some how or other credit, or a cash account on some company in London, and his bills being honoured in a few instances at first, he rapidly rose in credit, and by address and application to business, seemed to be in a very flourishing way. But alas! it was at the expence of many, and to the ruin of a few. The amount of his debts, was L. 4000.

on an extensive brewery. The site of it, and of his stack yard which was very large, were only lately dug up.

Road.—It is not above two years since the new line of road between Glasgow and Edinburgh by Cumbernauld was first opened. Before that period, the principal road was by Kirkintilloch and Kilfyth; and it was very much frequented. Our little village, by being a general thorough fare, was always crowded, and had much the air of a busy thriving place. There is now much less bustle and noise, and more of the appearance of dullness and desertion; yet trade is as brisk, and the inhabitants except a few publicans, are as thriving as at any former period. Two flys, and perhaps 10 or 12 post chaises, and double the number of post horses, used to pass daily. Now there is not a single fly, seldom a post chaise in a week, and perhaps not a post horse in a day. The chief inn in Kilfyth, though almost never clean or commodious, was much frequented. The publican used to keep one, two, or sometimes four post chaises, and from 6 to 12 post horses. Now there is neither chaise, nor almost a post horse, to be found. Of course, the turnpike gate, which was formerly rented at L. 145, is now so low as L. 51, and yet the profit to the keeper is but small.

The post-office, besides affording a salary of L. 15 ster. generally produced between L. 36 and L. 40 yearly. At present, it yields from L. 38 to L. 40, allowing a salary of L. 12 annually to the postmaster. So that in trade, there is no falling off.

Advantages.—It remains for me to mention the peculiar advantages this parish enjoys. And happily these are many and great. The village in point of situation, will yield to none. It stands upon a gently rising ground, a fine dry sandy soil,

soil, in the middle of a rich strath, and it is accessible at all times, as it is upon the old north road from Glasgow to Edinburgh; and what is highly favourable, it is at equal distances from Falkirk and Glasgow on the east and west, and from Hamilton and Stirling on the south and north. The air is pure and salubrious. There is abundance of spring and running water, with both of which the town is copiously supplied: And there are in the immediate vicinity, a variety of situations very favourable for a bleachfield or printfield, and abundance of water-falls for machinery of almost any size. In one place especially, a fall may be obtained of nearly 30 feet perpendicular, within 300 yards of a good coal, near abundance of fine lime, and upon a beautiful post of free stone, where the stones for the building might be dug out of the foundation. This is within a quarter of a mile of the village, and what is more, within less than an English mile of the great canal. So that there is an open easy access to the German and Atlantic oceans, and by them to the whole world. This consideration is of great consequence to a manufacturing village. It gives us at once, all the advantages of an inland and sea port town combined. For we can export our manufactures to any port, and import grain or other commodities from any quarter of the globe, with equal ease as at Greenock, or Grangemouth. The rich abundance of the carses of Falkirk, Stirling, and Gowry, and of the fertile lands of Lothian, Carrick, and Ireland, is brought to our doors, at as easy and cheap a rate, as if they were our neighbouring parishes, within 6 or 10 miles.

These advantages have induced a great many new settlers to come among us. And Sir Archibald Edmonstone, Bart. of Dunbreath, and proprietor of the estate of Kilsyth, with a spirit truly liberal and generous, has given them every en-

couragement, and has within these 8 years feued a complete new town.

Disadvantages.—But while we enjoy many advantages, and are abundantly sensible of it, we labour under a few peculiar disadvantages, though I trust we are grateful to heaven that they are so few and small. A few of these disadvantages I shall shortly enumerate.

1st, It is doubtless a considerable loss, that none of the principal heritors reside in the parish. All classes and denominations, but especially the poor, must feel this. The tender nursing hand of a liberal landlord, is to them, a mighty blessing.

2d, But it is not only those who feel the loss. The parish at large, but especially the town, have cause to regret, that there is not within the parish a single justice of the peace, commissioner of supply, or magistrate, nor even a baron bailiff: so that the smallest petty offence, or outrage, cannot be redressed without applying to some justice of some neighbouring parish.

And what is still worse, every idle, worthless vagrant, who can find shelter no where else, is apt to resort to this as a place of refuge, where he may skulk about and pilfer with impunity. Amazing crouds of sturdy beggars infest us at all times, especially in harvest, when all the males are at work in the field. At that time they not only crave a reasonable alms, but often enforce their unreasonable demand, by frightening the peaceable and industrious inhabitants. If there be any evil which calls for redress in this place, this is one; and to redress it is surely not impossible.

3d, It is likewise a loss to this parish, that we have no weekly market. The peasant and manufacturer, whether in the town or country must feel this.

4th, The farmers labour under a few inconveniences. But they

they are only few, and much more than counterbalanced, by the many peculiar advantages they enjoy.

Characters of the Inhabitants.—The characters of the inhabitants of this parish, are as various as their countenances; as in every mixed society, the good and the bad are blended together.

To speak in general terms, however, they are punctual in their attendance on religious ordinances, decent and devout in their external appearance, and regular in their manners. They are sober, active, and industrious; open, candid, and even generous in their dealings; loyal to their sovereign, obedient to all lawful authorities; and they study to live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and honesty.

Though divided into various sects, they are to a man steady friends to the protestant persuasion, and live together in the unity of the spirit, and the bond of peace.

Upwards of one half of the inhabitants can trace back their parentage, for many generations, all natives of this parish. Independent in their circumstances, and of a more independent spirit, they have a high sense of honour, and a great regard to character.

The above will by many be deemed a flattering picture; and I dare say, I may be accused of partiality. My only plea is, that I have been born and bred among them; upwards of 500 of them are my blood relations. For this cause, I am perhaps better acquainted with their feelings and sentiments than any man, and though partial, I trust I am too upright to flatter them. On the contrary, I must acknowledge, that among the rising generation, there are many less regular in their manners than their fathers.

I have many reasons to be attached to this parish. Where-

ever I turn my eye, I meet with the friends or companions of my youth. Tenderly alive to all they feel, and all they fear, I cannot but have a deep concern, and ardent desire, for their temporal and eternal interests. Happy shall I be, if living or dying, I can be the humble instrument of turning even one of them to righteousness*.

* There is a very curious collection of old parchments in this parish. Some of them go nearly as far back as the Reformation. They principally refer to the affairs of the church, being charters or grants of lands and privileges, from certain abbeys to certain livings. Among the rest are some from Cam-buskenneth near Stirling.

They might afford matter of much curiosity, perhaps furnish some important information.

NUMBER

NUMBER XII.

P A R I S H O F K I P P E N.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN CAMPBELL.

Name.

THOUGH many names of places in this country are undoubtedly of Gaelic origin, yet it is difficult to procure any etymology of the name of the parish, that may be considered as perfectly satisfactory. *Ceap* in Gaelic, is nearly of the same import with the English word *cape*, or promontory, and resembles it in sound. From this the word *Kippen* is said to be derived; and the name is supposed to be descriptive of the situation of the village, which stands on an eminence, near the point of the hill, which terminates at Boquhan. The village has exactly this appearance, when viewed from the north west, as from Cardross, or the opposite braes of Monteath.

Situation and Limits.—The parish of Kippen lies within the counties of Perth and Stirling; under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Dunblane, and Synod of Perth and Stirling. It is bounded on the north by the river Forth,

Forth, which separates it from the parishes of Kilmadock, Kincardine, and Port. On the east, it marches with Gargunnock; on the south, with Balfron; and on the west, with the parish of Drymen. The road from Stirling to Dunbarton passes through this parish for 7 miles; it is more, however, than 8 miles in length, between the distant extremities. Its breadth is unequal; generally from 2 to 3 miles; at the middle of the parish, it is nearly 4 miles broad.

Boundaries of Stirling and Perth Shires.—One might have expected that the river Forth, which forms a natural limit to this parish for several miles, should have also served as a boundary to the shire of Perth. This county however, in two or three places, passes over this natural limit, and becomes indented in the county of Stirling; so that about one third part of the parish of Kippen, lies in Perthshire, the other two thirds in Stirlingshire. Such an irregularity seems now surprising. But it is well known, that ancient proprietors had influence to get such portions of their estates as they chose, disjoined from those counties within which they were locally situated, and connected with such other counties, as better suited their convenience. Other instances of this kind, and more remarkable than in the case before us, might easily be adduced in support of this observation *.

General Aspect of the Country.—From some of the higher grounds, an ample and variegated prospect presents itself to the eye of the spectator. At the head of the strath, stands the

* Some lands in the parishes of Bonhill and Kilmaronnock, which formerly belonged to the laird of Gleneagles, and of which he is still superior, were once connected with the shire of Perth, though they lie at a considerable distance from the limits of that county.

the house of Gartmore, commanding a view of the whole plain below, which extends eastward for 20 or 30 miles. The house and policy of Cardross, a few miles farther down the country, greatly enliven the landscape. The carse, a rich and beautiful valley, exhibits an inclosed and well cultivated country, embellished with numberless farms, and gentlemen's seats; and in summer and autumn, often loaded with luxuriant crops. So rich and extensive a scenery is rarely to be seen. The dusky spots which are covered with moss, please by contrast; and the imagination is gratified by anticipating the period, when the moss shall be cleared away, and its room occupied by the useful productions of the earth, and the habitations of men. Stirling castle, and the rocks of Craig-forth and Abbeys-craig, appear on the east, like islands emerging out of the carse. The braes of Monteath rise on the northern side, like an amphitheatre. And a rugged range of the Grampian mountains, stretching from Benlomond to the Ochills, encompasses the whole. Thus the eye is at once gratified, with a prospect of rude and cultivated nature, and with a survey of the noble effects of human industry and art.

Carse.—The parish of Kippen is divided by nature into the *carse* and *dryfield*. The former consists of the level ground that lies on the south side of the Forth, between that river and the rising grounds. It is of unequal breadth, from half a mile to a mile, and in some places more; and forms a part of that extensive plain, which reaches from Gartmore on both sides of the river, as far eastward as Borrowstounness. In different places in this parish, it is covered with moss to the extent of 300 or 400 acres.

Moss.—There seems reason to believe, that the greater part
2 of

of the plain eastward from Stirling, has at one period been covered with moss; and that the arable lands on both sides of the river, have been recovered from the moss, by dint of labour, in a course of ages. It is probable that the whole of this extensive plain, had been previously under water. Shells, both separate and collected into beds, are found throughout the carse; and it is not long since fish bones of a considerable size, have been met with in the neighbourhood of Stirling. The mass of clay would naturally be accumulated and levelled by the operation of the tides. The period in which this part of the country was under water, must be very remote, as on this subject both history and tradition are equally silent. After the recession of the waters, the same space must have been occupied with trees and shrubs. These would be produced by the same causes, which, in process of time, cover ground that is left without culture, with various vegetable productions. A forest would at last appear; and by the fall and putrefaction of this forest, the moss, in its present state, has unquestionably been formed. Oaks of a great size, are still found on the subjacent earth, where the moss has been cleared away. Many of these are in good preservation; when exposed to the air for some time, they become hard; and when put to use, prove very durable. They are rarely serviceable for furniture; but suit very well for roof timber, stobs, and bridges over moss ditches. Other trees, such as birch, alder, black-saugh, rowan, hawthorn, and hazle, are also found; hazle nuts are frequently met with. The trunks or bodies of these trees, are generally consumed; but the roots remain. It is natural to enquire, how this great forest should happen to be overthrown. A hurricane of wind occurs at first, as a possible cause of this great effect. But in this case it is obvious, that the trees must either have been broken about the middle, or torn up by the roots, and would be

be found uniformly lying in the direction of the current. But the roots are generally found standing in the clay; the trunks separated from them a little above the ground, lying in all directions; and sometimes, on the oaks particularly, the marks of an ax or hatchet have been traced. The testimony of several historians of credit, as well as other authentic monuments, lead us to a discovery of the authors of this great catastrophe. When the Romans pushed their conquests into Britain, our ancestors, the Britons and Caledonians, were forced by the victorious legions to retire to their hills, or secure themselves in those extensive forests, with which the island then abounded. From these strong holds they sallied forth as opportunity offered, and by their frequent incursions, not only annoyed the armies of their conquerors, but enriched themselves with booty. From the speech of Galgacus, given by Tacitus in his life of Agricola, it appears that the Romans had been much employed in cutting down forests and draining morasses, with a view to secure themselves against such predatory attacks from the natives. But to put an effectual stop to these depredations, in the last expedition of the Emperor Severus, general orders were issued to cut down all the forests throughout this part of the island. This service was performed by the Roman legions, assisted by those natives whom they had been able to subjugate. Herodian* concisely mentions this fact. Dion Cassius†, whose account is more particular,

VOL. XVIII.

S s

informs

* Lib. III. c. 48.

† Xiphilin. ex Dione, lib. 39. The passage relative to this subject in the abridger of Dion, is curious and interesting. "Quam Severus, quum vellet omnem in suam potestatem redigere, ingressus est in Caledoniam, eamque dum pertransiret, habuit maxima negotia, quod sylvas caderet, et loca alta perforaret, quodque paludes obrueret aggere, et pontes in fluminibus faceret. Nullum enim prælium gessit, neque copias hostium instructas vidit; a quibus proponebantur

informs us, that in this expedition, the Romans lost no less than 50,000 men. We need not wonder then at the speed and success, with which this great undertaking was accomplished *. In the moss of Kincardine, a Roman way, 12 feet wide, and regularly formed by trees or logs of wood laid across each other, is still to be traced †. And a Roman camp kettle was found in the year 1768, in the lands of Mr Ramsay of Ochertyre, which has been presented by him to the Antiquarian Society in Edinburgh. Such are the grounds on which it is believed that the forest in this part of the country was cut down by the Romans; most probably in the expedition of Severus, A. D. 207, whilst Donald I. reigned in Caledonia. He was the first Scottish prince (according to Buchanan ‡), who embraced Christianity. The overthrow of this forest would naturally interrupt the course of those various streams which formerly ran through the valley. This body

proponabantur consultò oves bovesque, ut quum ea nostri raperent, ac longe de via declinarent, facile opprimerentur. Ad hæc nostris aquæ valde oberant, dispersisque insidiæ parabantur : quumque non possent iter facere, occidebantur a suis, ut ne ab hostibus caperentur. Itaque mortui sunt e nostris ad quinquaginta millia. Neque tamen destitit Severus, quousque ad extremam insulam venit.

* Modern historians, relying on these authorities, agree in their accounts of the transactions of the Romans at this period in Britain. Buchan. Rer. Scot. Hist. lib. IV. c. 37. Henry's Hist. of Great Brit. Vol. I. chap. 1. Encyc. Brit. edit. 3. Vol XII. p. 388, under the word Moss.

† In Moss Logan in this parish, a way has lately been discovered, which from all accounts, in respect of breadth and construction, exactly resembles that in the moss of Kincardine. But as the information concerning it was received only since this account was drawn up, no opportunity has yet offered of examining it so particularly, as to authorize a more decided opinion respecting its origin.

‡ Hist. lib. IV. 36.

body of stagnant water, swelled from time to time by rains, and melted snow, and rivulets descending from the heights, would continue to increase till it became so considerable as to open a passage for itself to the east. And thus the valley, at that period, must have exhibited the appearance of a vast morass. The wood and leaves, and other vegetable substances, all rotting together, would in time accumulate, and form the great body of the moss. The consolidation of this mass of corrupted vegetables would leave room for the water above it, to run off by such channels as it could find or form. By such a process in a series of ages, it is natural to imagine, that this moss has been brought into the state in which it now appears.

Casting of Peats.—The soil underneath the moss is a strong rich clay. The moss is generally from 8 to 10 feet in depth, and consists of different substances, regularly disposed in strata, as follows. Immediately above the clay is a stratum of fat brown earth, from 9 to 12 inches in depth, supposed to have been formed by the incorporation of the clay with the contiguous moss, and which seems to have been the vegetable mold, covering the clay when the forest was cut down. The next bed lying immediately above the former, is the great body of the moss, which consists of various vegetable substances, corrupted, compacted, and matured by age. This is annually cut for peats, and supplies most families in this country with fuel through the year. The upper stratum is a light and spongy substance, much paler in the colour than the bed of peat moss. It seems to be formed chiefly of decayed leaves and stalks of heath, bent grass, and other plants with which the surface of the moss is overgrown, but not yet sufficiently corrupted so as to be formed into moss. Of this upper stratum, 3 or 4 feet must always be pared away, which is generally done

in winter, and thrown by the spade into the pit out of which the peats were taken in the preceding year. It then forms the *spreadfield*, or ground upon which the new peats are laid out to be dried. As the whole of it cannot be thus disposed of, the remainder is by means of little canals formed for the purpose, floated down into the Forth. The peats are always cast as soon as possible after seed-time, and are carried home in the course of the summer or harvest. It was a remarkable proof of the uncommon wetness of the season 1792, that few peats were got home that year, but remained on the spreadfield till next summer. This circumstance had not happened before in the memory of man, and necessarily subjected poorer families to very great inconvenience.

Clearing away of Moss.—As the carse soil is so valuable, it must be an object of importance to the proprietors, to have the superjacent moss cleared away*. Those portions of land, which in this parish are recovered from the moss, are such as lie under old spreadfields, from which the peats have formerly been taken. This operation is generally performed in winter. The water which comes down from the higher grounds in *burns* or rivulets contiguous to the moss, is by means of small ducts or canals introduced into the spreadfield which is intended to be put away. The spreadfield having been previously intersected with these canals, of a proper depth and width, its substance is, by many hands, thrown into these when water can be had in plenty, and thus carried down into the river. Much yet remains to be done, before the arable land is procured. About a foot of moss, mixt with many fragments of trees and roots,

* Mr Drummond of Blair-Drummond, carries on an undertaking of this nature on an extensive scale. See an interesting account of the process employed for that purpose in *Encyc. Brit.* 3d. edit. Vol. XII. under the article *MOSS of KINCARDINE.*

roots, some small, many very large, must be dug up. In some places this operation must be repeated oftener than once. Such of these fragments as are unfit for any useful purpose, are burnt when dry, generally in the months of May and June. The ashes, with what remains of the moss, and brown earth formerly mentioned, when judiciously mixt with the clay, form together one of the best soils. Some pains are also requisite to level the inequalities, which is best done at first, to prevent the water from standing in the hollows. The clearing away of the spreadfield was formerly done for L. 40 Scots, or L. 3 : 6 : 8 ster. per acre ; but since wages have increased, it will cost from L. 5 to L. 6 ster. In this manner in a course of years, a considerable quantity of land has been gained from the moss, worth from 15s. to 20s. ster. per acre. The carse soil, in favourable seasons, produces rich crops of every kind of grain common in this country ; particularly wheat, beans and pease, and oats ; barley is not so certain a crop.

Haugh.—Besides the moss, and the land recovered from it, there is along the banks of the Forth, a narrow strip of haugh or holm, which is very fertile, and equally adapted to tillage or pasture.

Dryfield.—From the carse, the lands rise at first abruptly, and then very gradually for about a mile, or more in some places ; continuing flat for a considerable space, they again decline towards the south. This elevated part of the parish, is called the *dryfield* ; a term which is by no means descriptive of the nature of the soil, but is used merely to distinguish it from the lower grounds or *carse*. Where it first springs from the carse, it is marked by all those appearances which the banks of rivers that have been deserted by them exhibit. The interjacent valley between this parish, and the green hills

hills of Boquhan and Glinns, is very narrow at the eastern extremity. Towards the west, the country is more open. From the southern boundary, most of the baronies in this parish are laid off, parallel to each other, down to the sides of the Forth. The dryfield of Kippen forms the greater part of that hill, which, commencing at the bridge of Boquhan, and extending through the whole of this parish, and part of the parishes of Balfron and Drymen, terminates about a mile westward from the village of Balfron. The land which lies on its northern declivity, forms the main body of the parish of Kippen, and exhibits a pleasing view of fruitful fields, generally well inclosed, and occasionally intersected with glens and rivulets.

Moor of Kippen.—Towards the summit and southern declivity of the hill, on which it hath been observed, that the greater part of this parish is situated, there is an extensive moor, called the moor of Kippen, which runs the whole length of the parish, and comprehends also part of Balfron. On the south side, the ground which is lighter, and not so good as that on the north side of the hill, slopes gradually for half a mile or more, and is terminated by a small rivulet called the Pow of the Glinns, which divides Kippen from Balfron. This water runs eastward, till it falls into the burn of Boquhan, which again forms the boundary between Kippen and Gargunnoch, and empties itself into the Forth, at the bridge of Frew. Another small stream, west from the former, takes a different course, and runs westward into the water of Endrick, which finally goes into the Clyde. Under the mosses in the moor of Kippen, are found some oaks and other trees, though not so large as those in the low moss on the sides of the Forth. It is probable that the whole dryfield has been covered with wood, mostly oak; for on the sides of
the

the glens, through which the water collected in the moor runs down into the Forth, the trees grow thick, and within these 50 years, stocks of oaks with young shoots growing from them have been seen in different places: these however, are now rooted out, and the fields cleared for the plough.

Stones.—The moor abounds with red and white free-stone. On the southern boundary lime-stone is also found. This lime-stone, containing a considerable portion of sand, suits the carse well, but is not thought so proper for the dry-field.

Lake.—In the moor, there is a small lake or reservoir of water called *Loch-leggan*, about a mile in circumference. A small stream issues from it, which turns several mills. In the middle of the loch, there is a *cairne*, or heap of stones, supposed to be the ruins of an old house, of which however, no authentic accounts can now be obtained. There are no fish in the loch, but a few perches of a small size. Trouts are to be had in the several rivulets which run into the Forth: the burn of Boquhan affords them in greatest plenty.

River Forth.—The river Forth has but a mean appearance in this part of the country. It is confined within narrow and deep banks, and except in a few places, its current is so very slow, as hardly to be perceptible. From Gartmore to Stirling, a line of 20 miles, the fall of the river is said not to exceed, on an average, a foot in the mile. The banks of the Forth, are from 10 to 20 feet; and in some places more from the surface of the bank, to the bottom of the river. Many large trees are still found in the bottom; and some appear with their ends projecting from the banks, as the water washes away the clay. They are found at different depths, from

6 to 20 feet below the surface of the bank ; and in all directions, some lying horizontally, others standing almost upright. The river contains both pike and perch. In former times, salmon used to come up in abundance, but since the mosses began to be cleared away, they have not been taken in any considerable quantity. There are two bridges over the Forth in this parish ; one near Cardross built in 1772, the other at Frew, built in 1783 ; both at present are in good repair.

Natural Curiosities.—"The burn of Boquhan, which, descending from the rock of Ballochleam, makes little impression on the strata of lime-stone or iron, meets at last with the red sand-stone, through which it has opened a passage, and wrought its soft materials into a number of curious shapes, such as the wells and caldrons of the Devon. It is yet remembered, when it burst through a large projection of the rock, and threw the mill with all its appendages, on the other side of the bank *."—In the garden of Broich, there is a yew tree, of a regular conical form, whose branches shooting regularly from the trunk, with their extremities falling down to the ground, exhibits the appearance of a large umbrella to those who stand under its shade. The circumference of the trunk about 2 feet above the ground, is 10 feet ; height of the trunk to the lowest row of branches, 9 feet ; height of the tree, about 50 feet ; circumference of the circle overspread by the lower branches, 140 feet. It is supposed to be 200 or 300 years old ; and though it may not vie with the yew of Fortingal, must still be allowed to be a beautiful object.

Antiquities and History.—The names and situations of several places in the parish, plainly shew that in former times, they have

* Gen. Campbell's notes, page 18.

have been places of strength. Thus the castle of Arnfindlay, of which no vestiges now remain; the tower of Garden, part of which, was standing 20 or 30 years ago; the remains of the house and castle of Arnprior, may still be traced. The house of Broich too, seems to have been surrounded with a rampart and fosse. A small green mound on the eastern confines of the lands of Buchlyvie, appears to have been a tumulus. Some human bones, inclosed in flags of stone, were lately found in it; but there is no tradition which gives any account of its origin.—Some years ago, an urn containing ashes and bones, was found in the Castle-hill of Dasher. There are several small heights in this parish, to which the name *Keir** is applied, which bear the marks of some ancient military work, viz. Keir-hill of Glentirran, Keir-hill of Dasher, Keir-brae of Drum, Keir-know of Arn-more, and Keir-brae of Garden. On the summit of each of these, there is a plain of an oval figure, surrounded with a rampart, which in most of them still remains entire. The *Peel of Garden*, (on which there is a work of the same kind,) is less elevated in point of situation; it rises but a little above the carse. The inclosure however is considerably larger than that of the Keirs; and the rampart and ditch, in respect of form and appearance, have suffered less from the injuries of time. None of these are of sufficient extent to have ever admitted of a regular encampment. The circumference of the rampart on the Keir-hill of Dasher, (which is neither the largest nor the smallest, and the only one that has been measured,) does not exceed 130 yards. Various opinions have been entertained concerning these works. The country people say that they were Pictish forts. A different conjecture supposes

VOL. XVIII.

T t

them

* “Keir, Caer, Chester, Castra, are said to be words of a like import.”—
GEN. CAMPBELL's notes, page 17.

them to have been temporary forts, or stations erected by the Romans, for giving signals, depositing provisions and stores, and protecting their pioneers from the attacks of the Caledonians, whilst employed in cutting down the great forest in the plain below. This conjecture, it is imagined, receives some support from the consideration, that places of a similar form are found in other parts of the country, into which the Romans are known to have penetrated. Others, unwilling to admit their pretensions to so high antiquity, believe them to have been formed by the feudal proprietors; for some purposes of security or convenience, which it may be difficult now to discover. It is surely matter both of surprise and regret, that no certain account can now be obtained of the origin and use of these works; which apparently have formed a part of some extensive system, the development of which might serve to illustrate the ancient state and history of our country*.—A dispute having arisen between

* There seems to be a considerable resemblance between these forts, and the forts of the Firbolgs, of which an account is given in Grose's *Antiquities of Ireland*. The passage alluded to, is extracted from that work in the *Monthly Review*, for December 1794, page 394; and was not seen by the writer of this account, till after it was prepared for the press. The insertion of the passage may perhaps be gratifying to some readers. "The forts common in this period, will be seen to be perfectly consistent with the rude state of the military art among the Firbolgs; though very superior to those of the Celtes. The Irish, who retained the customs of the latter, Cambrensis tells us, had no castles; their woods served them for camps, and their marshes for ditches. However, they learned from the Firbolgs, to take refuge on hills, as Cæsar says the Britons did. These were conical rising grounds, which were encircled with a single, double, or triple entrenchment, and which afforded ample protection; such were the infinite number of high round forts every where to be met with, and by Cambrensis, expressly ascribed to the Ostmen. The size of these earthen forts, varied with the number and power of the clan; some are but 18 or 20 yards in diameter, others cover as many acres."

tween the inhabitants of the baronies of Glentirran and Arnprior, respecting the course of the stream that issues from Loch-leggan, the parties met at a place near the loch, determined to decide the contest by arms. In this affray, several persons were killed; from which circumstance, the place bears the name of *Bloody mires*. King James V. who then resided at Stirling, having taken cognisance of this matter, ordered the stream to be taken from both, and turned into the channel, which it still retains. He likewise ordered the *new mill* to be built, which, being considered as a royal mill, pays a separate cess to this day.—During the arbitrary reigns of Charles II. and James II, the inhabitants of this parish suffered greatly from the persecution and tyranny which then prevailed. Mr Ure of Shirgarton, a gentleman of distinguished piety and zeal, underwent various hardships, the memory of which is still preserved by tradition in the neighbourhood*.—In the year 1676, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the *night*, to a very numerous meeting at Arnbeg†. The ministers who assisted in dispensing that ordinance, were Messrs. John Law, after the Revolution minister at Edinburgh, Mr Hugh Smith at Eastwood, and Mr Matthew Crawford.—A chapel formerly stood near the eastern boundary of the parish, beside the old mansion house of Glentirran. The remains of it were seen within these few years. It is said to have been built for the accommodation of the parishes of Gargunnock and Kippen, in consequence of the indulgence granted by King James. A Mr Barclay then officiated as minister.—In former times, the highland

T t 2

clans

* Many particulars respecting this worthy gentleman, are recorded by Mr Wodrow, in his History of the sufferings of the Church of Scotland; see especially, Vol. ii. page 260.

† Wodrow's History, Vol. i. page 416.

clans, which were situated on the borders of the low country, were accustomed to subsist in a great measure, by rapine and plunder. In the year 1691, a party of these free-booters visited this parish, to the great terror and loss of the country. They were commanded by old *Rob Roy*, a robber by profession, who pretended to have a commission from King James “to plunder the rebel whigs.” The peaceable inhabitants were obliged to flee for their safety, and leave their property to the rapacity of this banditti, who seized upon cattle, victual, furniture, &c. and carried away as much as they were able. Only one man, servant to Sir James Livingston, was killed upon that occasion. This act of depredation was remembered by the fathers of several persons still living, and is known by the name of the *herriship* * of Kippen.—In the year 1745, the rebel army passed the Forth by the ford of Frew on their way to Stirling. The inhabitants were obliged to furnish provisions for the supply of their immediate necessities; but their march was not marked by any other acts of violence.

Population.—It is probable, that the parish of Kippen was more populous in former times, than it is at present. The enlargement of the farms, necessarily occasioned the fall of the cotteries, which afforded subsistence to many families. In consequence of the encouragement offered by the manufacturing companies, lately established at Balfron, many families as well as individuals have removed to that village. A considerable decrease has taken place within these last 10 years.

In 1755, the number of inhabitants, according to Dr Webster’s account, amounted to

In

* From the Scots word *berry*, to rob or plunder.

In 1764, the number of examinable persons, is stated to have been 1450, which is nearly the same as at present.

In 1783, the number of families was 446; of souls 1940.

In 1793, the number of families was 399.

———— Males 847, females 930; in all 1777 souls.

Under 10 years, 343 From 40 to 50, 180

From 10 to 20, 399 From 50 to 60, 145

From 20 to 30, 325 From 60 to 70, 128

From 30 to 40, 190 From 70 to 80, 48

———— From 80 to 90, 19

1257

520 Total 1777.

Distinguished according to their Religious Persuasions.

Of the Established Church, - - 1266

Antiburgher Seceders, - - 491

Burgher, do. - - 4

Cameronians, - - 13

Episcopalians, - - 3

1777

Table

*Table of Marriages, Baptisms, and Burials in this Parish,
for the following years.*

Years.	Marriages.	Baptisms.			Burials.			
		Males.	Fem.	Total.	Years.	Males.	Fem.	Tot.
From 1700 to 1709 inclus.	104	229	194	423	1783	3	4	7
1710—1719	170	193	214	407	1784	12	7	19
1720—1729 -	183	194	167	361	1785	14	14	28
1730—1739	188	293	251	544	1786	8	2	10
1740—1749 *	-	199	178	377	1787	22	10	32
1750—1759 -	-	229	160	389	1788	18	16	34
1760—1769 -	158	242	272	514	1789	8	6	14
1770—1779	172	271	237	508	1790	4	10	14
1780—1789 -	161	242	238	480	1791	8	14	22
1790	18	23	22	45	1792	7	10	17
1791 -	11	19	18	37				
1792 -	15	20	23	43				

In 1792-3, there were in the parish of Kippen, 24 heritors, of whom the greater part do not reside in the parish; 1 established minister, 1 antiburgher minister, 1 physician, 1 writer, 2 schoolmasters, 100 farmers, 88 farming men servants, 8 millers, 6 maltmen, 4 licensed distillers, 1 excise officer, 10 merchants, 37 weavers, 5 journeymen do. 14 apprentices, 1 stocking weaver, 8 wrights, 3 do. journeymen, 6 do. apprentices, 2 wheelwrights, 4 hecklers, 6 masons, 1 do. apprentice, 10 shoemakers, 2 journeymen do. 2 do. apprentices, 1 saddler, 1 journeyman do. 2 tanners, 1 journeyman do. 4 coopers, 14 taylors, 2 journeymen do. 2 do. apprentices, 8 smiths, 2 do. apprentices, 1 dyer, 1 baker, 2 butchers,

* Chasm in the register of Marriages from 1745 to 1758; and the register of Baptisms seems to have been irregularly kept during the greater part of that period.

chers, 8 publicans, 7 carters, 4 sheriff-officers, 47 day labourers.

Parish Register,—There are no records extant previous to the commencement of the present century. From 1700 to 1745, the register of marriages and baptisms appears to have been kept with considerable accuracy. For the 12 following years, the register of marriages seems to have been entirely neglected. From that period too, many parents who had joined the secession, neglected to get their children's names enrolled in the parish register. For this reason, the register, especially of baptisms, cannot be considered as exhibiting a complete enumeration of the children born in the parish from that time downward *. It may also be observed, that as the names of parties enrolled with a view to proclamation of banns, when they happen to reside in different parishes, are registered in both the parishes to which they severally belong; this circumstance must make the number of marriages appear greater than it is in reality. And therefore in calculating the whole population of Scotland, so far as regard is had to the authority of parochial registers, it may be laid down as a maxim, that the number of marriages will upon the whole exceed, and that of baptisms fall short of the truth. In this, as well as in most country parishes, no account of burials was kept till within these few years; nor can the register of these be considered as perfectly accurate.

Climate, Health, Diseases.—The climate is wet, on account, probably, of the vicinity of the hills, and the prevalence of westerly winds. A register of the weather was kept for many years

* Of late years, care has been taken to render the register of baptisms more complete than formerly.

years by Dr Leckie, a gentleman of intelligence and observation in this parish, but he found “only a series of capricious
“changes, incapable of being classed or connected, so as to
“form any useful rule, or any observations on the weather
“or seasons that can be depended upon in this country.” The climate though wet, does not appear to be unhealthy, which may be attributed perhaps to the frequency of high winds, which prevent the vapours from becoming stagnant. The number of aged persons at present in the parish appears from the preceding tables; within the few last years, two persons have died near the age of 100.—A pleasant and uncommon spectacle of health and industry is seen in this village; an old man, his son, and grandson, all smiths, of one name, dwelling in the house in which they were born, and continuing to follow their occupation in the same shop from day to day. The inhabitants of this part of county are not subject to any disease that can be considered as peculiar to the climate. The ague is said in former times to have prevailed in the carse. It is now extremely rare, at least in the parish of Kippen. Epidemical diseases are not frequent. In the spring months of years 1785 and 1787, a pleuretic fever prevailed, which carried off a number of people. The year 1788 was fatal to some old people and children. Of the uncommon mortality in these years, the openness of the preceding winters cannot properly be assigned as the cause; for they were not more open, perhaps less so, than several succeeding seasons which were accompanied with no such consequences. The small-pox and measles are sometimes fatal to children. Inoculation is rather gaining ground, though slowly. It is surprising that any prejudice should remain against a practice, which experience hath proved to be so salutary. Dr Leckie, (whose practice both in this country and the West Indies, has been very extensive,) declares, “that only two of all those
“whom

“whom he has inoculated died of the small-pox : the one
“of these was taken ill with them within 24 hours after be-
“ing inoculated ; the other in less than 3 days. He has re-
“sided above 40 years in Kippen, and inoculated above 20
“yearly at an average”.

Remarkable Medical Case.—It may not be improper in this place to mention the remarkable case of a boy who lost a considerable portion of brain, and yet recovered, without detriment to any faculty mental or corporeal. On the 1st of July 1792, William Stewart, a servant boy, about 14 years of age, was by a blow from the foot of a horse knocked to the ground, and left in a state of insensibility. From a large wound on the right side of his fore-head, blood issued in considerable quantities, as well as at different times, a considerable portion of the substance of the brain. The boy not only survived the accident, but recovered, and was seen perfectly well, by the writer of this account in the month of November following. A distinct account of this case, and of the whole process of the cure, was published by Mr Robert Leny, a young gentleman, practitioner in physic, which deserves the attention of those who are curious in physiology. It is inserted in the Medical Commentaries, published by Dr Duncan of Edinburgh, for 1793, p. 301.

Church, Manse, &c.—The church is said to have been built or rebuilt in 1691. The easter part of it was rebuilt in 1737. It was completely repaired in 1779, and is now a very decent and commodious place of worship—William Leckie of Dasher made a present of a very good bell to the parish.—The present manse was built in 1706. The stipend by the last decret of augmentation in 1763 is nearly 89 bolls of meal, together with L. 34 : 3 : 4 ster. which sum includes the

ordinary allowances for communion elements, and grafts mail. —James Erskine Esq. of Cardross is patron. Were all patrons, in the disposal of vacant benefices, to shew the same regard to the wishes of the parishioners which this gentleman has uniformly done, the practical evils which have often been complained of as resulting from the exercise of patronage, would not be felt.

Meeting-house.—A meeting-house in connection with the Antiburgher seceders was built at Buchlyvie in 1751. The minister has L. 50 ster. as stipend, arising from the seat rents, with a house and garden. The congregation is gathered from the several contiguous parishes. The members of the secession have laid aside much of that moroseness and acrimony which distinguished their predecessors, and in general maintain good neighbourhood with their brethren of the established church. There is a burying place connected with the meeting-house.

School.—It must be obvious that one parochial school is entirely inadequate to the extent and populousness of this parish. To remedy this inconvenience, various plans have been at different times proposed. It has long been found absolutely necessary to have another school at the west end of the parish. But the heritors felt reluctance to impose upon themselves the burden of two parochial schools. A schoolmaster who was admitted in 1752 was taken bound to provide at his own charge two teachers, the one at Buchlyvie, the other at the burn of Arnprior, for six months in the year; or to have 50 merks retained from his salary, which was then L. 100 Scots. It was afterwards proposed to remove the parochial school to a convenient situation in the center of the parish, and to have only one teacher. At last it was determined

mined in 1763 to have two established schools; the salary was advanced to L. 115 Scots, of which L. 75 is allotted to the schoolmaster at Kippen, the remaining L. 40 to the other teacher. In the year 1782 a schoolhouse, including a dwelling-house for the master, was built at Claymires. It is in sufficient repair and tolerably commodious. The schoolmaster at Kippen is but indifferently accommodated. In former times, a house was occasionally rented for the school, and the master was seldom accommodated with a dwelling-house. The school was held in the church for some time previous to its reparation in 1779. Since that time a house has been rented, on a long lease, for a school-house, and dwelling-house for the master; neither of which, however, are very commodious.—In the school at Kippen, are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, Latin, and church music. The whole emoluments of the schoolmaster, including his salary and fees as session clerk, may amount annually to L. 25 or L. 30 sterling*. As the distance from the two established schools is more than 4 miles, the inhabitants of the intermediate district find it convenient to employ a teacher during the winter months to instruct younger children in the elements of reading and writing. The number of scholars last winter, when the schools were most frequent, was at Kippen 60, at Arnprior 36, at Claymires 64.

Poor.—The funds for supply of the poor in this parish arise, from the weekly collections, dues from marriages, from the mortcloth, occasional fines from delinquents, together with L. 13 : 10, the interest at 4½ per cent of L. 300 ster. which at

U u 2

different

* An addition of two guineas per ann. has been lately made to the schoolmaster, for keeping the record of the meetings of heritors.

different periods has been mortified by individuals for behoof of the poor of the parish. Of this sum 2000 merks, or L. 1111 : 2 : 2 $\frac{8}{11}$ ster. was mortified by the late Walter M'Lachlan of Wester Colbowie, the interest of which in terms of his will must be distributed among the poor in Buchlyvie. The half of this sum was left to the disposal of the associate session at Buchlyvie, whose intromissions were to be subject to the review of the kirk session of Kippen; but they declining to accept of the management on these conditions, the whole was given to the kirk session of Kippen. On this account a separate book is kept for recording the distributions that are made to the poor in the barony of Buchlyvie.—The annual amount of the funds must necessarily vary. From L. 40 to L. 50 is distributed every year. The number of the poor is also variable. In 1792 the number of ordinary pensioners on the list was generally 22, who received in different sums, according to their necessities, the highest L. 2 : 7, the lowest 9s. or 10s. in the course of the year. Besides the stated distributions, occasional supply is also granted to persons who suffer from temporary distress.—In 1782 the heritors bought, and distributed a quantity of oatmeal to the most necessitous, below the market price. With a view to prevent improper applications, it has sometimes been required that those who receive supply, should assign to the session for behoof of the poor all the property they may die possessed of, after the house rent and funeral charges are paid. But the necessity of this measure is not very urgent, whilst the poor in general discover so much reluctance to accept of public charity.—The funds are managed by the kirk session, who keep regular accounts of their intromissions; these are occasionally revised and homologated by the heritors.—Objections have sometimes been made to the payment of the salaries of the presbytery clerk and officer, and of the synod clerk, which altogether amount

mount to 11s. 2d. per ann. from this parish. Were any other fund provided for payment of these salaries, the alteration would undoubtedly be proper, and credit would then be given to the liberality of those who brought it forward. But on what principle of justice, it should be attempted to devolve this burden on the clergy, it is surely difficult to discover. — On the whole, it is believed that no better plan can be devised for taking care of the poor, than that which is generally practised throughout Scotland. And whilst the members of kirk-sessions continue to act with fidelity and prudence, their gratuitous performance of a service, which is accompanied with considerable trouble, undoubtedly entitles them to the gratitude and support of their country.

Villages.—The village of Kippen stands about a mile distant from the eastern boundary of the parish, and contains 76 families. Buchlyvie, which is 5 miles farther west, is a larger village, and contains 102 families. The greater part of the inhabitants of both these villages consists of labourers and trades people of different descriptions. There are several merchants also, who supply us not only with rye grass, clover, lint seed, and wool, but with most articles of personal and domestic consumpt.

Fairs and Markets.—Five fairs are held in the village of Kippen, and as many in Buchlyvie in the course of the year. Besides which, there is a weekly market in Kippen, in each Wednesday, for 3 or 4 weeks, in the month of December. By an Act of the Parliament of Scotland *, June 15th 1686; William Leckie then proprietor of the barony of Dasher or Deshoar,

* The original extract of the act, signed by Lord Tarbat, then Lord Clerk Register, is in the possession of Mr Graham of Gartmore.

Deshoar, and his successors, are authorized to keep 3 free fairs in the year, at certain times which are specified, each to continue 3 days; and also a weekly market every Wednesday, to be holden on the Castle-hill of Dasher, on which part of the village of Kippen now stands. Two of these fairs still remain. That which was appointed to be held in the month of September, has been long disused, as also the weekly market; if indeed it was ever observed at all. The weekly markets in December are probably all that remains of it.

Prices of Labour, &c.—It must be of use to record the price of labour, and of the provisions and various commodities which are produced and consumed in a country, as no circumstance tends more to ascertain its relative situation with respect to other countries, and to itself, both in former and subsequent times.—About 40 years ago the wages of men-servants were about L. 2, of women from 15s to 16s 8d a-year, with bounties. Those who were careful saved most of their wages, as the bounties were sufficient to furnish them with cloaths. About 30 years ago, wages had gradually advanced, men's to L. 5 or L. 6, women's to L. 1:15 or L. 2:5. Bounties are now generally abolished, and in 1793, from L. 7 to L. 9, were given to men, from L. 2:10 to L. 3:10, to women.—In harvest, as there is no weekly market, reapers are generally hired by the season. Before 1760 men received from 13s 4d to 16s 8d, women from 10s to 13s 4d; and in 1793 men received 30s, women 20s.—Before 1760, the wages of taylors and day-labourers, was 4d a-day, with victuals; 6d was given in 1783, and 10d in 1793. Carpenters and masons about 30 years ago, got 6d a-day, with victuals; in 1793, they received 1s 2d. Formerly, smiths were paid by the farmers with grain, for serving them in work through

through the year ; they are now paid for the piece of work, at certain fixed rates. Within these 10 or 12 years, a considerable rise has taken place, on most of the articles of living. The following table, shews the prices of a few of the most common articles at different periods.

		In 1763.	In 1783.	In 1793.
Butter per lib. Dutch weight,	-	4d or 4d $\frac{1}{2}$	6d or 7d	9d or 9d $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese,	do.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2d	2d $\frac{1}{2}$ or 3d
A hen,	-	4d to 6d	8d	10d or 1s
Eggs per doz.		1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2d	3d

Mutton, veal and lamb, were formerly sold without being weighed at so much per quarter ; they are now sold by weight, and regulated by the Stirling market, which is generally 3d or 3d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lib. Dutch weight. Beef is seldom killed except about Martinmas, and is sold for 4s or 4s 6d per stone. It is hardly necessary to take notice of the prices of grain, which are perpetually varying. It may suffice to mention oat-meal, which in summer 1783 sold at 22s per boll ; it had not reached near that price, since the year 1757 ; in 1785, it fell so low as 13s 4d or 12s 6d ; but 15s or 16s, may be considered as its price on an average.

Manufactures.—This parish does not admit of any establishments in the cotton-manufactory, as no situation could be found, commanding at all times a plentiful supply of water. Yet some branches of manufacture in some degree reach even to us. In the village of Kippen 25 or 30 young girls, under the inspection of a mistress, are employed by a company in Glasgow in tambouring muslins. In Buchlyvie, some of the newly invented jennies for spinning cotton have been
2 set

set up by a company in Balfron. And in both villages, as well as through the parish, a considerable number of weavers has been employed by several companies in weaving muslins*.—Such institutions not only give bread at present to many individuals and families, but must in time excite a general spirit of industry and enterprize amongst our people.—In Buchlyvie there is a tan-work, consisting of 16 or 20 pools; and in another place sheep skins are tanned to a small extent.—Before the commencement of the present distillery act in 1793, there were 4 distillers of whisky in the parish, who carried on an advantageous trade, as they stood on the north side of the line fixed by the former act, to separate the highlands from the low country. By the present act a change of line has taken place, by which this parish is thrown on the south side, and thus cut off from the benefits of the highland district. Since December 1793, there is but one distillery of the size required by law, which furnishes the country with whisky, and produces a very considerable revenue to government. Including the licence and duty on malt, the proprietor pays about L. 1200 sterling annually to the excise.

Heritors, Rent, &c.—There are in all 24 heritors. Of these 6 are feuars or portioners, not including the small feuars in the villages. Robert Graham Esq. of Gartmore is the principal heritor; there are 9 who reside in the parish. Excepting two or three estates, the whole property in the parish has been changed within these 50 or 60 years. The valued rent amounts to L. 5185 : 8 : 8, Scots. The present real rent, may

* Since this article was first written, these branches of manufacture have suffered some interruption, in consequence of the late stagnation of trade. This however, it is hoped, will prove but temporary.

may be estimated at L. 4000 sterling. The rents are generally paid partly in money and partly in victual. Most of the landlords require also kain of fowls, certain carriages of victual or coal; and those who reside in the parish, a certain number of days labour in the mofs when casting peats; all which it would be better to abolish, and take the value in grain or money at a reasonable conversion. Thirlage is generally abolished; in some instances however it still remains. This institution marks a remote period of society, and the remains of it greatly retard improvement.

Land and Produce.—The quantity of land in this parish cannot easily be ascertained. According to the most probable conjecture, the carse may be supposed to contain 1200 acres of arable land, and about 300 of mofs; the dryfield about 5000 acres of arable and pasture land, and about 1500 or 2000 of moor. Land in the carse is worth from 15s to 20s; in the dryfield, from 5s to 25s per acre. Oats, and barley or bear, form the staple produce of this parish. Oatmeal in considerable quantities is exported to the west highlands, the printfields on the water of Leven, the Dunbarton, and the Glasgow markets. The barley is purchased by the distiller and the malt men in the parish; by the latter, malt in considerable quantities is exported to the highlands. Much more barley than grows in the parish, perhaps double the quantity, is purchased by them. Some wheat is sown in the carses, very little in the dryfield; the wetness and lateness of our climate is peculiarly unfavourable to the cultivation of this kind of grain. Pease are sown in the dryfield, and beans in the carse. Most farmers raise as much flax as supplies their own families with that useful article, but none for the market. The same thing may be affirmed with respect to potatoes. Very few turnips are sown.—In the carse, a kind of

white faugh grows to a considerable size. It will grow to the thickness of a foot in diameter in the space of 20 years, and is peculiarly useful for farming utensils and machinery.

Cattle and Carriages.—The number of horses is supposed to be about 360, of which the greater part has been reared in the parish.—The number of cows is about 1600; about 180 or 200 are annually bought and sold; the remainder consists of milk cows and young stock.—Formerly every farmer kept a number of sheep, but since the farms have been inclosed this practice has been discontinued. The number at present in the parish will not exceed 8 or 10 score.—There are about 165 ploughs, 285 carts, and 3 two-wheeled chaises.

Agriculture.—The ancient mode of husbandry which prevailed throughout Scotland, was also practised in this parish. No attempts to improve it seem to have taken place before the middle of the present century. A few inclosures were made about 40 years ago. But any improvements of consequence, have all been introduced since the military road from Stirling to Dunbarton was completed. Since that period a very considerable change has taken place. Most of the lands in the parish are inclosed with stone dykes or thorn hedges. A good deal of lime is every year laid upon the fields. And a general spirit of industry has been excited, which promises in time greatly to improve the agriculture of the country.

The wetness of the climate is a great disadvantage. This not only injures the crops, but renders our seasons generally late. We are upon the whole three weeks later than East-Lothian, and often a fortnight later than our neighbours in the vicinity of Stirling. Seldom does the seed labour begin before the middle of March, and not unfrequently the end of

that

that month approaches, before the fields are dry enough for the plough. In the year 1789, the bear-feed was not finished before the 8th June. So late a season however was rather uncommon. Harvest is seldom over before the middle or end of October, and corn is seen sometimes standing out even when the month of November is advanced. On account of the frequent rains, it is but seldom that any labour can be got forward after harvest, or during the winter. The same circumstance is also unfavourable to the practice of fallowing, which however is neglected in this country, more than is proper. It is indeed seldom or never attempted in the dry-field, and in the carse but sometimes, as a preparation for sowing wheat.

The soil of the carse has been already described. In the carse farms, the infield or crofting grounds were formerly kept in a constant rotation of barley, oats, and beans. A great part of the infield carse lands has been laboured in this way for time immemorial, without ever being pastured or summer fallowed. The outfield was sown with three crops of oats successively, and then pastured. Carting clay from the ditches and ends of ridges, and mixing it with dung and moss, was thought to make excellent manure, though procured with great labour. This compost however is less used, and more lime is laid upon the grounds, since the practice of summer-fallowing and sowing grass-seeds was introduced. This is found to possess great advantages over the former mode of culture.

The whole dryfield of this parish lies upon a rock, which is immediately covered with a bed of till, and above this is the soil, which is of unequal depth, though generally shallow. Hence it is generally wet, as the water is not allowed to subside. The soil immediately contiguous to the moor is mossy and poor, but it becomes richer farther down the hill. The

crops on these high grounds are seldom adequate to the labour and expence bestowed upon them. What shall we think of the situation of that land, and of those who labour it, from which an increase in the proportion of 3 to 1 is reckoned an excellent crop? The inferiority of the oats and barley produced on such grounds, is also experienced both at the mill and market. It would certainly be better if more of the higher part of the dryfield were thrown into grass. If the tillage indeed were altogether abandoned, these lands in a short time would be overgrown with heath or broom. But this might easily be prevented by occasional cropping.

It would be a great improvement to drain those fields which are most injured by water. In some places indeed the rock comes so near the surface, that such a measure is impracticable. But in many places it might be adopted with great advantage. So extensive an undertaking however could hardly be carried on by ordinary tenants on a 19 years lease. It would therefore be the interest of the proprietors to give them some proper encouragement. A laudable example of this kind is set by Mr Stirling of Garden, who agrees to be at the expence of casting the ditches, and the tenants are bound to fill them up with stones. Wherever this improvement is attempted, care should be taken that the ditches be of sufficient depth. They ought to be 3 feet deep, and filled with stones as near the surface as that the plough cannot touch them.

Too little attention is paid in general, to a proper rotation of crops. The dryfield cannot well bear more than two white crops successively. Those therefore who go on to take three or four, certainly impoverish their grounds. A greater proportion of the farm should be laid down in grass, and other green crops occasionally interposed. This will be more attended

tended to, as improvements in husbandry advance amongst us. Some of the more judicious farmers have begun to adopt this plan, and find their account in the change of their practice.

Turnips are but little cultivated in this part of the country. Experience however has shewn their utility in cleaning the ground, keeping it in good condition, and furnishing manure; an object of great importance, where dung cannot be purchased. There can be no doubt that in many places of our dryfield, turnips might be cultivated with success.

As our seasons are generally late, the use of earlier sorts of seed must appear an obvious advantage. The Essex oats and some other kinds have been tried. But the tendency of these to be shaken with the harvest winds, has hitherto discouraged our farmers from making much use of them.

Several of the implements used in husbandry would admit of improvement. The Scottish plough is generally used, but little attention is paid to its construction. As those prejudices against all innovations however proper, which distinguished the ancient farmers of Scotland, are now wearing away, it is to be hoped, that all such alterations as reason and experience prove to be useful, will in time be introduced. It is agreeable to observe that some ploughs of a better construction have lately been procured; and within these two years, no less than 8 threshing mills have been erected in the parish. Every corn mill has now a kiln contiguous to it; the kiln-heads are of cast iron, which occasion a considerable saving in respect of straw and fuel. The oats are dried in much less time, and the meal produced is equally good as by the ancient method. Formerly almost every farmer was accustomed to have a kiln of his own, which not only required frequent reparations, but was extremely liable to accidents by fire.

A better method of ploughing, than that which the old farmers

mers practised is now generally adopted ; fewer horses are employed, and in some instances without a goadman.

The ploughing matches that have been instituted in different parts of the country, have been accompanied with very good effects. A plan of this kind has once and again been attempted here. Under the patronage of a number of gentlemen in the neighbourhood, a ploughing match took place on the 22d March 1794, at which 17 ploughs started, and about L. 12 ster. was distributed in different sums to the 7 best ploughmen, and a small gratuity to the rest. Such well-judged encouragement must stimulate our farming servants to excel in this important part of practical husbandry.

Disadvantages ; and Projected Improvements.—The want of coal is one principal disadvantage under which this parish labours. We have none nearer than Bannockburn and Auchenbowie, either of which is at least 12 miles from the village of Kippen. There seems reason to believe that coal may be found in the lands of Glinns and Balgair in this neighbourhood. Attempts for that purpose have repeatedly been made in these places, as well as in the lands of Buchlyvie, but hitherto without the success that might be desired. The acquisition of coal so near would be of vast importance to this part of the country.

We have lime at no great distance, and even within the parish. As the limestone however contains a considerable portion of sand, it is thought not to suit the dryfield so well, though proper for the carse lands. But as the coal necessary to burn it cannot be procured but at great expence and trouble, most farmers, especially in the middle, and east end of the parish, find it more for their advantage to drive lime from Stirling shore, to which it is brought up the Forth from the Earl of Elgin's lime works ; or from the estates of Sauchie and Murrayshall,

Murrayshall, about 12 miles from the village. This limestone being of a richer quality than that which is nearer us, is found peculiarly suitable for the dryfield. The shells cost 8s. 6d. or 9s. per chalder at the kiln.

The parish of Kippen raises much more grain than is necessary for its own consumpt, but lies far from a good market. Stirling is abundantly supplied from its own immediate vicinity, and both Glasgow and Dunbarton are 24 miles from the village. This disadvantage might be alleviated by making good roads. The road from Kippen to Glasgow by Campsie moor, was formerly extremely bad, and often impassable in winter. In 1792 it was made turnpike, and the course of it in several places altered with advantage. A bill has lately received the sanction of parliament for making the military road turnpike likewise. As these two great roads intersect each other at the village of Kippen, the effects of this undertaking must be extremely favourable to this neighbourhood, as well as convenient for the public in general, by opening the communication between the northern and southern parts of the country.

It is the opinion of many of the graziers and dealers in cattle, that Kippen is one of the most convenient places, perhaps, in Scotland for a cattle market; and that in the late fluctuating state of the tryfts, it might not have been difficult to transfer to it a great part of the spring and autumn markets. There is a spacious moor near the village which lies very convenient for that purpose. With a view to encourage their resort to it, Mr Graham of Gartmore, the proprietor, offered it to the dealers in cattle free of custom for 19 years.

It is also believed that the establishment of a corn market once a week at Kippen might prove very beneficial; as also a weekly market in the time of harvest for hiring

hiring shearers. Both of these objects seemed in a fair way of taking place a few years ago; the design however was afterwards dropped*.

When the scheme of joining the rivers Forth and Clyde by a navigable canal was first projected, it was doubted which of the two was the preferable course, viz. the southern track, nearly the same with what was actually adopted; or “the
“ other, by following the river Forth for some miles above
“ Stirling, and then crossing over by the bog of Bolatt into
“ the water of Endrick, down to Loch Lomond, and from
“ thence by the river Leven into the Clyde at Dunbarton †.” Though this plan was rejected, yet it deserves the consideration of all the proprietors on both sides of the Forth, whether it might be proper to have that river rendered navigable as far up as Gartmore. It appears from Mr Smeaton’s report, that this is not only a practicable undertaking, but might be executed at no great expence. “Two locks and one dam
“ would make an open navigation from Gartmore to the
“ Frith of Forth, at all seasons of the year; and was there
“ any trade of consequence up this extensive valley, would
“ be worth the while, independent of a navigable commu-
“ nication between the two seas. One lock ought to be placed
“ opposite Craigforth mill, and the lock and dam at the ford
“ of Frew. This with a little clearance of the shoal at Car-
“ dross, would make a navigable passage over the same ‡.” The advantages resulting from such a plan, in furnishing us with coal, lime, &c. in opening new markets for our grain,
and

* A fresh attempt to establish a weekly corn market at Kippen, was made since this account was written, in spring and summer 1795, not without the prospect of success.

† Mr Smeaton’s report, in Scots magazine for 1767, p. 177.

‡ Ibid. p. 180.

and consequently in raising the value of landed property in this part of the country, are so apparent that they do not need to be pointed out.

The moor on the summit of the hill might better be disposed of in planting. A quantity of waste and barren land in Glentirran moor, has within these few years been divided into small lots, and feued off to a number of people, each of whom builds a house on his feu and improves the ground. This land till lately was of very little value; it now brings 20s. per acre to the proprietor, Mr Graham of Gartmore. It is not every situation however that admits of this improvement. Part of the same moor has lately been cultivated by General Campbell, whose extensive improvements on the estate of Boquhan are highly beneficial and ornamental to the country.

Character of the People.—The great body of the people in this parish is entitled to the praise of sobriety. There are few instances amongst us of notorious profligacy. By means of industry and œconomy, they in general obtain a comfortable subsistence, and some individuals have raised themselves to opulence.—The same changes with respect to dress and manner of living, are observed here of late years as in other places.

General Reflections on the State of Society.—It seems not unreasonable to apprehend, that such a state of society as appears at present in the parish of Kippen, and other places whose circumstances are similar, is as favourable to happiness as the course of human affairs can ordinarily admit. In a country where improvements are altogether unknown, much happiness cannot be enjoyed; for there the necessaries of life are procured with difficulty, or, if they are easily procured, little

scope is afforded for active exertion. On the other hand, where improvements in agriculture and the arts have been brought to a high degree of perfection, luxury and other evils accompany them, which are no less unfriendly than poverty and indolence to the happiness of man. It is in some intermediate state, where improvements have begun, and are still advancing, that the circumstances of society appear most calculated to promote the comfort of human life. Such, it is conceived, is the case with respect to this neighbourhood, and many other places in Scotland whose situation is the same with ours. The truth of this assertion will be manifest, if we take a comparative view of several states of society, which are known to have existed, or do still exist in Scotland.

It is unnecessary to dwell on those remote periods, when a spirit of ferocity and warlike manners prevailed. Surely there could be little happiness where there was little property, and that which men possessed was insecure.

If we look back only to a generation or two, and reflect on the state of the country in the former part of the present century, or survey those places, where the recent improvements in husbandry have not yet been introduced, a state of society is exhibited that cannot be gratifying to a lover of mankind. The lands, sterile from want of culture, requite their penurious possessors with penury. Life is indeed protracted, though few of its comforts are enjoyed. Men seem patient in enduring hardship, but averse from labour. Strangers to enterprize, the powers of their minds rust through mere disuse. A harmless, torpid race, who might be said to sleep rather than to live. The farms generally small, just enabled them to maintain their families and pay the landlord, but held out few inducements to stimulate exertion.

In the southern parts of Scotland as well as in England,
where

where agriculture seems to be brought to the highest state of improvement, we see extensive farms in the possession of tenants who appear as gentlemen, and are able to live in affluence and splendour. Experience however undeniably proves that those situations in life which admit of luxury, are unfavourable to happiness. And in these places the distance between master and servant is so very great, that though the latter may enjoy a present subsistence, yet he can have little or no hope of bettering his circumstances to such a degree, as to rise to independence, and obtain possession of a farm himself. Such extensive farms are also unfavourable to the population of the country.

Let us next attend to those places where manufactures have been introduced. There the necessities and conveniencies of life are procured with facility. Abundant scope is given to exertion. And riches pour on all who are willing to labour. But these disproportioned rewards of labour generally tend to enervate the sinews of industry, foster idleness, introduce a total relaxation of morals, and consequently lead to poverty and wretchedness*. Population indeed appears to increase with rapidity; but its progress is arrested by disease, which seems to fix its abode in those extensive work-houses that are employed in manufactures. In the cotton-works particularly, children become able to support themselves almost as soon as they are able to speak or walk. But their wan and sickly aspect, occasioned by constant confinement; and their unacquaintance with the sentiments of religion and morality, arising from the want of proper education, and the early infection

Y y 2

of

* It is well known that comparatively few operative manufacturers rise to opulence. Their money is dissipated as fast as it is gained. Hence the wretchedness of such multitudes of this description, in consequence of the late stagnation of trade.

of evil company, do much more than counterbalance the profits of infant labour. If such children live till they become parents, what hopes do they afford respecting the next generation? By the wise and humane exertions of some benevolent individuals, these evils may be partially prevented or alleviated; but a general care to guard against them is more than can reasonably be expected. To all which it may be added, that the facility with which money is procured by the lower ranks, tends to generate a spirit unsuited to their condition in life, unfriendly to subordination, and menacing eventually the order and peace of society.

Now if we direct our view to such a state of society as takes place at present in this parish, and in other places which have reached the same degree of improvement, a variety of circumstances will appear which combine to promote the felicity of human life. The farms are not too extensive, and yet sufficiently large to offer abundant scope to exertion. A comfortable subsistence is within the reach of every person who is able, and who chooses to labour. Persevering industry and enterprise are crowned with liberal rewards. Not a few of our most respectable farmers were once servants, and are now equal, perhaps superior in fortune, to the masters whom they served. One man might be mentioned, who began the world with nothing, and, by farming only, reared a numerous family, and lately purchased an estate in the parish for which he paid 1500 guineas. The trades people in the villages live more comfortably than those of the same rank in great towns. Almost every family of this description has a kail-yard, and keeps a cow; and those who are able to get a few acres of land find this a great advantage. Occasional attention to their land forms an agreeable and useful relaxation from the sedentary life of a handicraft, and supplies the family with meal and potatoes, and winter provision for the cow. Though our situation

tion does not admit of establishments in manufactures, we are not altogether excluded from a share of the benefits derived from them. The increasing demand for grain, cattle, &c. is beneficial to the farmer; whilst the smaller erections for spinning cotton, tambouring, and weaving muslins, bring to us these manufactures, and the advantages resulting from them, upon such a scale as is not likely to produce any material injury to the health or morals of those employed in them. At least those who have the superintendence of such small manufacturing societies, have it in their power to prevent or to correct abuses, to a degree that is altogether impracticable in great towns, or larger establishments of this kind.

Such are some of the advantages enjoyed by a country which hath emerged from the unprofitable indolence of former times, and in which improvements are still advancing, though they have not yet arrived at that ultimate point of perfection to which they naturally tend.

The disadvantages which accompany an advanced state of society, seem to render it no less unfriendly to human happiness, than those earlier stages in which improvements are but little known. To prevent or to correct these evils, is surely one of the noblest objects which can employ the exertions of politicians and philanthropists. To this desirable end, the present statistical investigation of the kingdom, when completed, may be expected in a high degree to contribute. And the writer of this account will think himself happy, if these remarks shall lead the people in this part of the country, and others placed in similar situations, to contentment with the lot that Divine Providence hath assigned to them, and animate them to a becoming use of those advantages which they at present enjoy.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF DUDINGSTON.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM BENNET.**Name, Situation and Extent.*

DUDINGSTON is said to be a name of Gaelic origin, and to signify the house on the sunny side of the hill. However fanciful such etymologies in general may be, the situation of the church corresponds in some sense with this description. It stands under the south cope of Arthur's Seat, raised upon an eminence, which is embraced on the west and south by the lake bearing the same name, and protected on the north by the mountain. The most beautiful and picturesque scenery expands before it, and on every side. The views which it commands include every object which the painter would select to compose a rich or a finished landscape. Magnificent villas, towering castles, rich vallies, cultivated fields, woods, groves, ruins; the lake below, the bold precipices of Arthur's Seat behind; the hills of Pentland, Moorfoot, and Lammermoor, bounding the prospect upon the west and south; and the sea sinking in the distant horizon,

upon

upon the east. The distance of the village from the city of Edinburgh is little more than a mile; and the path that leads to it through the steep acclivities and chafms of the hill, though formerly difficult to pass, has yet proved sufficiently alluring to induce many of its opulent citizens to resort thither, in the summer months, to solace themselves over one of the ancient homely dishes of Scotland*, for which the place has been long celebrated; and, in winter, to attract crouds to witness or to partake of the amusements of skating upon its lake. The parish itself is of an irregular form, which fancy might imagine to resemble a wedge; and injudiciously, and very inconveniently, the church has been pitched near its sharpest apex. It extends from west to east four miles, and from north to south from less than half a mile to more than two. Upon the south it is bounded by part of the parishes of Inveresk and Liberton, upon the west and north by those of St. Cuthbert's, Canongate, and South Leith, and upon the east by the Frith of Forth.

History, Villages, &c.—The original foundation of the church and erection of the parish cannot be traced. In the register of assignations for the ministers stipends in the year 1574, MSS. presented by Bishop Keith to the Advocates library, Dudingston is said to have been a joint dependance with the castle of Edinburgh upon the Abbey of Holyroodhouse. The oldest records of the session are only of the year 1631. In 1630 the lands of Prestonfield were disjoined from the kirk and parish of St. Cuthbert's, of which they had formed

* The use of singed sheeps heads boiled or baked, so frequent in this village, is supposed to have arisen from the practice of slaughtering the sheep fed on the neighbouring hill for the market, removing the carcases to town, and leaving the head, &c. to be consumed in the place.

formed a part, and annexed to the parish of Dudingston. By an act of the presbytery of Edinburgh, dated May 18th 1631, an ayfle was appointed to be added to the kirk of Dudingston, for accommodation of the then proprietor of Prestonfield and his tenants, to be built and supported at his expence. The barony of Dudingston which comprehends the greatest part of the whole parish, for a considerable period continued in the possession of the family of Thomson's, of whom Sir Thomas was created a Baronet by Charles I. 1637. It appears that the estate had fallen into the hands of the Duke of Lauderdale in 1674. It passed with a daughter of his first Duchess, under the name of pin-money to the family of Argyle, to the first Duke of which she was married. In 1745 it was sold by Archibald Duke of Argyle to the late Earl of Abercorn, uncle and predecessor to the Marquis, the present proprietor.

Wester Dudingston was once a large and populous village. Most of the tenants upon the barony resided in it prior to the year 1751. Before the same period it furnished 36 horses to carry coals in sacks or creels to Edinburgh. About 40 years ago it supplied above 30 weavers looms. These were chiefly employed in manufacturing a very coarse flaxen stuff, then known by the name of Dudingston hardings, which generally sold for 3½d. to 4d. per yard. But the trade has declined; and there now remain but five weavers in the village. No place could be better adapted for some such manufactory as this, from its access to water, fuel, and the necessaries of life, as well as from its vicinity to Edinburgh. The late proprietor had it in contemplation to have rebuilt the place upon the model of a neat commodious English village, but from the interfection of feus, and the opposition of their possessors, he was obliged to desist from the attempt. The houses in consequence, have been suffered to drop into ruin, and those which remain

are chiefly occupied by labouring people, whose wives, with some widows in the place, employ themselves in washing linen, or carry milk to the inhabitants of the neighbouring city, for which their vicinity to the loch of Dudingston, and to many old and excellent pasture fields, affords them the most convenient opportunities.—Formerly it is supposed to have contained above 500 inhabitants. At present the number does not exceed 200.

Easter Dudingston has not varied so much in its size and population. It has lately been rebuilt in part, and the new houses according to their original destination, are for the most part occupied by coalliers. Portobello and Brickfield, now the most populous and prosperous villages of the parish, are but of very recent origin and name. The grounds on which they are built is a part of the Figget lands, which altogether consist of about 70 acres. These continued down to the 1762 or 1763 a mere waste, covered for the most part with furze or whins, and were commonly let to one of the Dudingston tenants for 200 merks Scots, or L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{8}{11}$ ster. In one or other of the above mentioned years, the lands of Figget were sold for L. 1500 ster. The purchaser immediately began to improve his property, and in a few years parcelled it out into different feus at the rate of L. 2 : 2, and sometimes even more, per acre. He soon indemnified himself for the expences of improvement with the crops he raised, and by the feu duties ensured an annual income of about 7 per cent. for the original price. Portobello hut was the first house raised in the midst of the original waste about the year 1742, and derived its title from the Spanish American city of that name, of the capture of which, the news had arrived in Britain about that period. Since the cultivation and improvements of the neighbouring soil, besides the ordinary houses required for the brick, pottery, and tile manufactures, a number of gay

or commodious dwellings have been erected by the feuers, either for their own accommodation or for bathing quarters, for which the agreeable softness of the adjacent sandy beach, the purity of the air, and the convenience of the Musselburgh or rather London post road form obvious recommendations.

Aspect and Improvements of the Country, Surface, &c. —

There is not a more highly cultivated spot in Scotland, nor one which more resembles the rich champaign of England, than that which the general aspect of this parish displays. But this has not been the case so long as the immediate neighbourhood of the Metropolis might have induced us to have imagined. The lands of Prestonfield were the first that were improved in the parish, or probably in the county. The proprietor of that estate was Lord Provost of Edinburgh, about the time of the Revolution in 1688. At that period, the fulzie or sweepings, and manure from the streets of the city was so little valued, or rather the proper use of it was so little understood, that instead of drawing revenue from it, a considerable sum was paid to some of the farmers in the neighbourhood for removing it. The then proprietor of Prestonfield, availed himself of the opportunity to enrich his estate. He undertook to empty or to scour the streets; and he applied the manure thus obtained, to improve the lands of Prestonfield. These he laid down in the most favourable condition, inclosed and subdivided. And as it is believed, that these were the first inclosed lands in the vicinity of Edinburgh, so it is certain, they were the first improved. As they are besides the oldest, so they are still esteemed the best grass pastures about the city, or perhaps any where else in Scotland. It was rather a matter of wonder, that such an example was not immediately followed by many of the neighbouring

neighbouring gentlemen, who must quickly have observed the singular benefit which resulted from this experiment. The prosecution of such improvements, however, at any distance from the city, might at that period have been much if not totally obstructed, from the state of the roads, which were generally ruinous, and often impassable in the winter season. It might arise partly from this circumstance, which formed also another obstacle to cultivation; that it was not till after the year 1750, that carts came to be in general use; at least to the west of Edinburgh, though they had been long employed upon the east side, the conveyance of all materials having been before that period, in sacks, hurdles or creels, upon the backs of horses. About 1730, the offals and manure of the streets of Edinburgh sold at 2d per cart: At present, the cart load in some circumstances sells at 1s 6d, or upwards; though in most cases, the streets and other sources of such unsightly treasures, are let by general or extensive contracts.

The estate of Dudingston, was much later in undergoing any effective improvement. The tenants originally possessed their lands in run-ridge or run-dale; and in each of the villages of Wester and Easter Dudingston in which they resided, they had access to a common, upon which they pastured their sheep, horses, and other cattle, which were kept by a common herd. It is somewhat remarkable, that before the year 1746, there never was an instance of a lease upon that estate; yet it is believed, there is not an older or more respectable tenantry in Scotland; several of the families of the present tenants having been in possession of their farms for upwards of 200 years. About the year 1751, the proprietor, the late Earl of Abercorn, began to subdivide his estate into commodious farms, to build convenient farm-houses, and offices upon each, and to inclose them with ditches and hedges.

The estate was thus reduced into a regular and progressive state of cultivation; and the country beautified and adorned with hedge-rows, clumps, and plantations of various forms and extent. Though the rents comparatively have been greatly advanced, in consequence of these improvements; the tenants are all thriving, live comfortably, and perhaps are in every respect, in a better condition than their predecessors; some of whom only paid at the rate of 5s per acre for the arable land of an inferior quality, with an interest in the commons, for which no rent was demanded. Prior to the year 1746, the medium rent of land in the parish was about 10s for the computed acre, now it is about L. 2:2. In 1763, soon after the Earl had compleated the subdividing and enclosing of his estate, he began to build his mansion house of Dudingston, upon an elegant and commodious plan, the work of the late Sir William Chalmers. The house and offices were finished in 1768; and continue to exhibit a beautiful specimen of Greek architecture and elegance, and of English accommodation and affluence. The noble villa was surrounded with shrubbery, pleasure grounds, canals, gardens; and in the formation of the whole, it is supposed, above L. 30,000 sterling, were expended. The beautiful variety of the ground, the happy position of the clumps and groves, the striking diversity of the water embellishments, canals, lakes, isles, and cascades; and above all, the grandeur and beauty of the surrounding scenery and prospects, independently of the magnificent form and architecture of the house itself, must ever render the place singularly picturesque, elegant and attracting.

Soil, Agriculture, &c.—The soil is naturally but poor or indifferent in the greater part of the parish, generally a brown earth,

earth, seldom exceeding 16 inches in depth, and often not attaining to so much; towards the east, inclined to and resting on a strong clay; and near the sea-coast degenerating into a light, but with culture not unproductive, sand. Agriculture has been carried to a high degree of perfection; though it must be confessed, from the circumstances of situation, there is little scope here for the exercise of ingenuity, or the invention of resources in the application of the art. The great medium of improvement is the manure of Edinburgh; and the great object of ambition, is the multiplying of wheat crops. These by the command of manure, can be often forced upon the soil before the return of any ordinary rotation of crops would permit their introduction. The fallowing, drill, pasture, and turnip husbandry, are little practised in this neighbourhood, from the dearth of the ground; and the easy though expensive acquisition of the richest manure. Crops of artificial grass and clover are frequently introduced, generally cut twice in the season, and seldom allowed to remain above two years upon the ground. Often the greater part of both crops is sublet and retailed in bunches in Edinburgh, at 1d $\frac{1}{2}$ the bunch, the standing price, though the bunch itself varies in size, according to the season, crop, &c. Potatoes are also a staple commodity, often sublet like clover at L. 8, and even L. 10 per acre. Barley, oats, pease, as usual have their place, though the last as seldom as possible; but assuredly the finest crops of each species of grain that can be seen any where, are raised here. Grounds that are kept in pasture, are seldom occupied by sheep to any extent; but are generally grazed by milk cows, and road horses from the neighbouring city; and these pay in the summer months 8d per night for each horse, and 6d per cow.

	L.	s.	d.
<i>Price of Labour.</i> —In 1746, the yearly wage of			
a ploughman was	3	0	0
A maid-servant,	1	10	0
A day-labourer, per day,	0	0	7
A journeyman mason,	0	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
A journeyman carpenter or wright,	0	0	10
A journeyman taylor with his victuals,	0	0	4
In 1794, the wages now are *,—A ploughman per			
year,	7	0	0
A maid-servant,	3	0	0
A journeyman mason per day,	0	1	6
A journeyman carpenter or wright,	0	1	8
A day-labourer,	0	1	2
A taylor with his victuals,	0	0	10

Manufactures.—The manufacturing or weaving of cloths of various kinds, though once prosecuted with considerable success in this place, has fallen, as has already been remarked, into a fatal decline. Manufactures, however, of a different kind, have arisen more recently with hopeful promise of success in the eastern parts of the parish. To the spirited and continued exertions of one patriotic gentleman, are to be ascribed the various useful works which now occupy and adorn the once desert lands of Figget, and which contribute to supply the village of Brickfield or Portobello with near 300 inhabitants. Mr William Jamieson, an eminent tradesman and architect in the city of Edinburgh, having purchased about 40 acres of the Figget lands, at the yearly feu duty of L. 2:2. per

* Besides this, farmers servants receive two pecks of oatmeal a week, and 6d, which they call kitchen, which may render the whole expence with other advantages, about L. 15:12.

per acre, built upon this property, in 1767, a handsome dwelling house; and having discovered a rich and deep bed of clay under the sand, he began soon after that period, the manufacturing of bricks; which by the number of hands employed, and houses required for their accommodation, gave rise to the above mentioned rapid increase of his village. The same clay has been found equally well adapted for the fabrication of tile, brown pottery, and white stone wares, all of which are carrying on with hopes of encreasing success. The last of these, the white stone-ware manufactory, having been suspended a while, has very lately been resumed by Messrs. Cockson and Jardine of Edinburgh, upon the Staffordshire model, and upon an enlarged and liberal plan. As the work however is only in its infancy as yet, it would be premature to enter into particulars; but from the advantages of its situation, the vicinity of the metropolis, and the skill and spirit of the undertakers, a prosperous issue may naturally be expected to the attempt. Upon the south-east borders of the parish at Magdalene bridge, an attempt was made some years ago, to introduce the manufactory of Scots superfine broad cloths, which after having been attended with considerable success for a time, was at last suffered to drop into decay. In the works erected to prosecute this design, a manufactory of hats is at present carried on. Salt has been long prepared upon the sea coast, in the parish. Maitland pans derive their name from, and were probably erected by some of the Lauderdale family, at one time proprietors of the land around. Magdalene pans, and Magdalene bridge, are supposed to have been named from a neighbouring chapel dedicated to St Magdalene, situated in the parish of Inveresk. The prosperity and produce of the salt-works, is in a considerable degree, regulated by the state of the coal, of which the following article treats. A few years ago, the number of salters with the officers employed

ployed in the work, amounted to 17. Their labours afforded employment to above 40 carriers, all women, who retailed the salt in Edinburgh, and through the neighbouring districts. The quantity of salt delivered by the six pans, regularly employed, used to be about 18,000 bushels annually.

Coal.—Thirteen seams of coal have been discovered and wrought upon the estate of Dudingston. These are of various qualities, and some excellent in their kinds. They crop, as indeed the strata of all minerals upon this coast preserve the same inclination, to the west; the dip or declination, is nearly at an angle of 45 degrees from the horizon to the east, a circumstance which of itself must always have rendered the working of the coal difficult. Most of the above seams have been wrought from a very remote period of time, which cannot now be ascertained, where they approach the surface, and as far as a simple free level could clear them of water. Under the Dukes of Argyle, a rude machine composed of, and named, *chain and buckets*, was employed to raise the water in the mines from a greater depth. When the property fell into the possession of the late Earl of Abercorn, the coal and salt works were at first let to Mr Biggar of Woolmet, an enterprising man, who opened a level from the sea, and carried it through the estates of Dudingston, Niddry, and part of Edmonston, up to Woolmet bank, a powerful drain of above 3 miles in extent, of most essential advantage to the more elevated coal works of the neighbouring proprietors, but eventually productive of ruin to that of Dudingston, besides opening the generating source of interminable law pleas. About the year 1763, the Earl of Abercorn began to erect a steam engine of very considerable power upon the Dudingston coalliery, extending its operation to the depth of 52 fathoms. This engine was rendered useless in 1790, when on the 20th
of

of March the whole seams of coal were overflowed and choaked from the communication of the level with the higher grounds. Before this period another engine of greater power, and upon a new construction *, had been erected near the southern boundary of the parish to work the coal of Brunstane which lies beyond its limits. The shaft of this engine pit reaches to the depth of 60 fathoms, and intersects three seams of coal, the first 7 feet thick, the next 9, and the last 15. The other materials through which it descends, are chiefly very deep strata of a coarse red free-stone, some of clay, and nearest to the coal a kind of pyrites schist, which the workmen call bands of bleas. The porous quality of the free-stone rock, the number of cutters, and above all the inauspicious communication of the fatal level, admit such an influx of water, as has all along rendered this undertaking singularly laborious and expensive, and at last reduced it to a very languishing condition. The number of coalliers, bearers, and other workmen employed at the coallery before 1790, used to be about 270. The number is now greatly reduced. If the working of the Dudingston coal should ever be revived, it will require the aid of two steam engines of very great power to carry it on with any success. If both these coalleries should be finally abandoned, though there be still much coal not yet exhausted in the neighbourhood,

VOL XVIII.

3 A

hood,

* The boilers are of a square form, instead of the usual spherical shape, which has been supposed to be best calculated to resist the pressure of the atmosphere without, and of the steam within, to expose a more extensive surface for the production of steam and the generation of heat. The cylinder is 66 inches in diameter, 9 feet the stroke in the cylinder, and 7 in the pumps; the beam 12 feet inside, 9 feet 9 inches outside. The working barrel 16 inches diameter. Ten strokes are made in the minute, and each stroke delivers 60 gallons of water.

hood, this may tend to raise considerably the price of that important article, a temporary dearth of which was lately so severely felt in the city and neighbourhood of Edinburgh. Of such unwelcome interruptions of the public supplies of fuel, and of the serious inconveniences which they produce, there are causes which are not perhaps attended to so much as they deserve. Since the period when the coalliers were emancipated by the interposition of the legislature from that state of villainage, by which, like the *adscriptitii glebæ* of feudal tyranny, they had been chained for life to the soil or work upon which they had been born, some conductors of coal works for a long period, discovered no better methods of binding them to their service, than by plunging them into debt, or alluring them by dissipation.—They were in many cases seduced from their former masters by more enterprising or less scrupulous employers. The debts, contracted in the work which they were to leave, were paid, and a premium superadded, which they were tempted, like the infatuated raw recruit, to spend in immediate intemperance. More money was often injudiciously lent them, in the vain hope, that the deeper they were involved in debt to their new masters, the more closely would they be incited to labour, and the longer they should be constrained to remain at their new task. But instead of this, the men, as a little less shallow policy might easily have foreseen, in such cases have become dispirited at the view of the debts in which they have been so hastily and often so unintentionally plunged; and at last despairing ever to discharge them, they sink into obstinate indolence, despondence, or profligacy; or they fairly run off from the work, and repair by stealth to some new contractor, who, though aware of their obnoxious condition, winks at the trick, and, when discovered, perhaps pays the fatal debt, and ensures the repetition

tion of the same fraudulent retribution against himself. Thus at last, either from the stubbornness of despair, the relish for bribes and indulgences, and the habitual taste for extravagance so imprudently fostered, the men get into their rebellious moods, and refuse to work without some new bribe, or perhaps unless their wages be raised in proportion to the increase of price, to which their masters may have chosen to raise the coal itself. There is another circumstance, which, though it does not so much corrupt the morals of the persons concerned, contributes however to aggravate the dearth, and to raise irregularly the price of coals. When it is presumed that the demand and the price of this article will rise considerably in the market, a multitude of carters and coal drivers abandon their common occupations, flock to this new traffic, and become the carriers, in the hope of an advanced and exorbitant profit. As it is impossible to supply this sudden increase of carriers with immediate freights, many of them are compelled to stand all night, and sometimes all day to boot, upon the hills, waiting their turns for loading. Upon their cart load, they are afterwards compelled to lay not only the ordinary price of carriage, but this extraordinary expence of attendance and risk; while it is evident, that half the number of carts might remove all the produce of the pits in the same time, and find regular employment with moderate and less hazardous gains. Convenient remedies for these errors might be easily discovered and profitably applied.

Minerals, Vegetables, Animals.—The fossils, plants, and animals, which occur in this parish, with a few exceptions, are the same with those which are common in all the districts around. The strata of lime-stone, iron-stone, &c. which run through the adjoining parishes of Newton, Liberton, &c. al-

so intersects that of Dudingston. They dip into the sea about or near to its eastern extremity, and are said to have been recognized again on the opposite coast of Fife. Quarries of grit and free-stone have been opened upon the sea shore, and of whin, or basaltic rock, near the situation of the church. Detached strata of clay have been wrought, so pure and unmixed with heterogeneous matter, that crucibles, bricks, &c. formed of it are capable of resisting a very great degree of heat. In the bed of Dudingston burn, there is a stratum of black coloured stone, soft, smooth, and unctuous in appearance, which, as it admits of an agreeable polish, might be converted to useful architectural purposes if wrought below the crop rock, and treated with skill. Petroleum, or fossil pitch, and manganese in small quantities, have also been found in the crevices of the free-stone quarries. Upon the sea coast, in the interstices of rocks and stones, curious and rare specimens of petrified plants and trees have been found. Some of them resembled the finest Marseilles quilting : others formed the evident petrifications of reeds and exotic plants, now known to be indigenous in tropical regions only ; a circumstance which as it has sometimes occurred so unaccountably in northern climates, has given rise to so much ingenious speculation, and to so many extravagant theories. Small pieces of chalcedony, porphyry, and agate in larger masses, have also been picked up upon the beach of the Forth, the boundary of the parish. Many of these have been polished, and preserved in the cabinets of the curious ; and few remnants have escaped the avidity of collectors in so public and accessible a spot. Marle of different kinds and great richness, has been found in great abundance in Dudingston loch, the property of Sir William Dick, and occasionally wrought, though from the vicinity of the place to the unfailing stores of strong Edinburgh manure, it has been undervalued and neglected.

The

The botanist may find more scope for the gratification of his taste in this district, than the mineralogist. The fields indeed which have been long in a state of cultivation, only exhibit naturally the common weeds, which bring both mortification and stimulus to the industry of the husbandman. The sea-coast produces but a few of the plants which are most frequent upon every beach. It is only the roots or skirts of Arthur's Seat, that descend within the limits of this parish. The mountain itself, contains above 400 species of plants; a number much beyond what Mr Lightfoot has ascribed to it in his *Flora Scottica*. But these, with its other treasures and beauties, fossil, picturesque, and historical, will probably elude description in the present great statistical undertaking, as no person may think it within his province to include them in his investigations. Dudingston loch alone affords a curious variety of indigenous plants. Of these, the most remarkable among the submersed species, or, as they are technically termed, the *Inundatæ*; are *Marestalk*, or *Hypuris vulgaris*, *Potamogeton natans*,—*perfoliatum*,—*lucens*,—*crispum*,—*densum*, *graminium*, &c. *Stratiotes aloides*, *Myriophyllum spicatum*, and *Ranunculus aquatilis*. Among the marshy, which are also often inundated, technically termed the *Palustræ*, are the Reed-grass, *Arundo phragmitis*, *Scirpus palustris*, *Menianthes trifoliata*, *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*, *Sium angustifolium*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Triglochen palustre*, *Alisma plantago*, *Epilobium palustre* and—*hirsutum*, *Polygonum amphibium*, *Lychnis flos cuculi*, *Geum rivale*, *Comarum palustre*, *Ranunculus lingua*,—*sceleratus*,—*hederaceus*, *Caltha palustris*, *Cardamine pratensis*, *Sisymbrium aquaticum*, and—*amphibium*, *Tussilago farfara*,—and *Petasites*, *Bidens*, *Sparganium erectum* and—*natans*, *Equisetum palustre* and—*fluvatile*. The chief economical or agricultural uses which this beautiful assemblage of plants has hitherto served, is,

when

when by their decay and resolution, they subside to the bottom of the lake, and contribute to form a rich and black mud, which has been found upon trial, to constitute an excellent manure. The Trefoil (*Menianthes trifoliata*), is generally gathered carefully in the month of June, for medicinal purposes, by the emissaries of the laboratories. The Reeds, which grow at the west end of the lake in great luxuriance and plenty, and cover above five acres of ground, have been employed by weavers to supply their looms; and form, besides, a most valuable thatch for any species of houses, which by the strength and hardness of the fibres, resists the attacks of sparrows, mice, and the common vermin which infest and deface straw roofs; and for the same reasons, will last incomparably longer than any common thatch; while a smaller quantity will suffice for the same work, and form a light, firm, and durable roof.

Of the animals, fish, and birds of this district, nothing singular or uncommon is to be remarked. Foxes from the neighbouring hill or plantations sometimes invade the farm-yards. A solitary badger at times may provoke a stubborn chase and contest. Otters used to frequent Dudingston loch, and colonies of rabbits, the sandy knolls near the sea-coast. Seals, porpoises, crabs, &c. are often seen upon the shore. Curlews, gulls, cormorants, and the common sea-fowl that frequent the Forth, visit the coast; and sometimes make incursions to the inland country. The cormorant especially, not unfrequently extends his depredations to the fish of Dudingston loch. This lake is in summer covered with flocks of coots, which when young, form a tolerable variety for the table. They remain till the closing of the ice totally excludes them from the water, when they emigrate to the sea, and return with the first thaw. Wild duck, teal, and water hens, also frequent the lake. Swans, originally imported tame, breed

in it prolifically, and form one of its picturesque ornaments. The fish which are found in the lake, are pike, perch, and a profusion of eels; twenty dozen of which have been killed in an evening, by the aid of a barbed spear, trident, or rather sexdent. Carp and tench had been imported by the Earl of Abercorn, to store his canals and ponds; but have now for the most part been destroyed by the pike, or washed away by the floods. The fish and shells of the neighbouring sea are also the same which are common on the shores of the Forth. Scalps of excellent oysters, are said to lie opposite to the Portobello beach. Mussels, spout or razor fish, are also gathered in the neighbourhood. Sometimes the cuttle fish, (*sepia soligo* of Linnæus), and what the Scots fishermen denominate the pocket or hoze fish are caught upon the shore; the feelers or antennæ of which are said to have been in such high request at the Roman tables. The sea hedge-hog, another article of ancient luxury, (*echinus æsculens* of Linnæus), is also found upon the sands. And in a soft black rock, opposite to the salt-works; and losing itself in the sea, may be observed, multitudes of that singular animal which Linnæus has named *Folus candidus*, which perforates rocks, and forms its habitation within their strong munitions.

Antiquities.—Though Froissart affirms that there were above 100 chateaux in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, in the time of Queen Mary, and though this parish be situated so near to the metropolis, no ruin of castle, camp, or tower, can now be traced within its limits. The church is certainly a building of considerable antiquity. Dr Littleton, when Bishop of Carlisle, and upon a visit to the lord of the manor, concluded probably from the structure of the arches, and the stile of the ornaments, that it must have been the work of the Saxons. There is no record, however, authority or date,
by

by which we can venture to ascribe its origin to so remote a period. Under the bellfry, there appears a date beginning 51; but of which the remaining cyphers, and other inscription, are now obliterated. Some years ago, in dragging the marle of Dudingston loch, the head and horns of a stag, some coins, the inscriptions of which were effaced, the blade of a sword, and the heads of some spears and javelins, all from their structure and materials believed to be Roman, were discovered. Some of these were sent to the museum of the King, some were presented to the Antiquarian Society, and some are preserved in Prestonfield house. In the adjacent meadow, in the opening of drains and ditches, under the first strata of moss and gravel, have been found wrecks of oak trees, hazel bushes and nuts; and the almost consumed iron of horse shoes of different dimensions. At the mouth of Dudingston or the Figget burn, have also been observed, immersed in a deep stratum of clay, the trunks of large oak trees, which when cut or broken, have been found black as ebony to the heart. They may perhaps be remnants of the King's forest to the east of Edinburgh, in which, it appears, by the original charter of erection of the monastery of the Holy Cross, the Monks obtained a privilege to send their hogs to feed. A causeway of considerable antiquity forms upon the north-east the boundary of this parish; and is conjectured by some, to be a remnant of one of those regular roads which the unfortunate Mary is said to have been so attentive to encourage, for the improvement of her rude kingdom. Several roads of this kind, converged to the palace of Holyrood house, and this which now bears the name of the Fishwife's causeway, once formed a part of the great post-road to London. The boroughs of Linlithgow and Peebles, are also said to have been bound to uphold this causeway; and it is known to have been a common practice of the above-mentioned

tioned Queen, to allow to bodies corporate, and even to private individuals, grants of certain privileges, immunities, &c. on the condition of their making and upholding particular roads and paths.

Remarkable Events, Characters, &c.—Tradition says, that the Figget whins, formerly a forest, afforded shelter and a place of rendezvous to Sir William Wallace and his myrmidons, when they were preparing to attack Berwick. The same doubtful chronicle reports a circumstance which is confirmed by the more respectable authority of private letters, though it has not found a place in the histories of the times. Before the battle of Dunbar, the leaders of the Scots demanded a conference with the usurper Cromwell; he consented to meet them on the morrow, half way between the Leith and Musselburgh rocks, at low water, upon the sands, each party to be accompanied with 100 horsemen. Any question they might choose to propose, he agreed to answer; but declined admitting of any animadversion or reply. A part of this curious but unsuccessful conference is reported to have been in these words. “Why did you put the king to death?” “Because he was a tyrant, and deserved death.” “Why did you dissolve the parliament?” “Because they were greater tyrants than the king, and required dissolution.”—At a later period, while the ill-fated Charles-Edward, the grandson of Cromwell’s victim, paraded his short-lived royalty in Holyroodhouse palace, in 1745, his scanty forces were encamped for above a month, to the east of the village of Dudingston; and many of the inhabitants remember the arts which their leaders employed to magnify their appearance, and to raise their own importance, and the bitter regret which the men expressed for having been impelled by their chieftains into their rash, but at that time not unpromising, attempt. A

phænomenon of a different kind, not effected by the disorders of the moral, but the convulsions of the natural world, was observed near the same spot, and about the same period; though it has not been recorded in the common productions of the time. On the 13th September, 1744, a water-spout broke upon the top of Arthur's seat, and dividing its force, discharged one part upon the western side, and tore up a channel or chasm, which still remains a monument of its violence; the other division took its direction towards the village of Dudingston, carried away the gable of its most westerly cottage, and flooded the loch over the adjacent meadows.

Some characters have appeared in this parish, not unworthy of notice. About the period of the overthrow of the Monarchy, or prior to the Restoration, the parson of Dudingston, (the Episcopal form then prevailed,) was named Monteath. Having been so unmindful of his character and office, as to engage in an illicit amour with a lady of rank in the neighbourhood, he found himself necessitated to fly from the scene of his disgrace and degradation. He repaired to France, and immediately applied for employment to the celebrated Richlieu. He told him, he was of the Monteath family in Scotland. The Cardinal remarked, that he was well acquainted with the Monteaths, and desired to know to what branch of the family he pertained. The exiled parson, whose father had been a plain fisherman in the salmon trade of the Forth, somewhere above Alloa, readily answered that he was of the Monteaths of Salmon net. Richlieu acknowledged, that he had not heard of that branch; but admitted with becoming candour, that notwithstanding his ignorance, it might be a very illustrious family. He received Monteath to his patronage; and soon advanced him to be his secretary, in which situation he wrote and published

lished some essays which were admired in that age, as specimens of the remarkable purity of stile and facility of diction, to which a foreigner could attain in the French language. His chief work was, "*La Histoire des Troubles, de la Grande Bretagne depuis,*" &c; par J. M. de Salomonet. A Paris: The first edition without a date, probably 1672. Mr David Malcolme was minister of Dudingston, prior to the 1741. He had addicted himself to the study of languages and antiquities, was received a member of the London Antiquarian Society, and published essays and letters, Edinburgh 1739. These display a considerable knowledge of the Celtic and Hebrew languages, and were chiefly intended to form an introduction to his great but unfinished undertaking of a Celtic Dictionary. They are commended by Mr Pinkerton, and quoted with respect by Gebelin in his "*Monde Primitif,*" and Bullet in his "*Memoires Celtiques.*" Pollock was successor of Malcolme in the benefices; but was soon removed to Aberdeen, as Professor of Divinity. Names higher in rank and fame than these might also be recorded, to add some celebrity to Dudingston. The celebrated John and Archibald, successive dukes of Argyll, passed much of their time, and it is said, received a part of their education with their mother, who resided constantly in this village, prior to the 1734. The late Earl of Abercorn made this his favourite residence; and formed of it a kind of new creation: a Nobleman, whose character was little known, or rather little understood; but who possessed singular vigour of mind, integrity of conduct, and patriotic views. The late Sir Alexander Dick was universally known, and esteemed for his general literature, public spirit, and urbanity of manners.

Church, Schools, Poor, &c.—The probable antiquity of the church has already been noticed. Its present appearance redounds not so much to its praise. The seats in the lower part of the church are in a tottering and ruinous state, though the pews in the galleries wear a respectable aspect. It would not require much expence to render the whole both commodious and elegant. A very beautiful semicircular arch divides the choir from the chancel, and the walls and roof are in a very respectable state. An elegant marble obelisk stands in the church-yard, a monument to the late Patrick Haldane, Esq. of Gleneagles, to erect which, L. 200 ster. were consigned by his unfortunate grandson, whose fate is recorded and sculptured upon the same pile. The manse is delightfully situated, and tolerably commodious. The stipend is in money L. 73 : 12 : 9, and in grain, three chalders. The public school-house is inconvenient and ill constructed ; and the provision for the teacher, as has so often been lamented in similar cases, is deplorably diminutive and inadequate to the importance and successful exercise of the office. The legal salary is L. 9 per ann. The perquisites arising from the conjoined office of session clerk, and the school fees, may one year with other, amount to L. 16 ; in all L. 25 per ann. The usual number of scholars is about 40. The fees per quarter, Latin and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. reading of English and writing, 2s. reading of English alone, 1s. 6d. or as it is commonly paid by the children of the labouring people, who form the great proportion of the school, 1½d. per week. Another school, situated in Easter Dudingston, was originally erected by the tenants in the neighbourhood, and is now supported by a small contribution, and the ordinary fees of teaching. A sunday school has also been tried in the eastern district of the parish, and has of late been attended with considerable success. For the support of the poor, no rate or assessment has yet been imposed. The
common

common collections at the church door, with the other usual resources of such revenue, have been made to suffice, however inadequate to the object. The collections used to amount to about L. 27 ster. per ann. From seat rents, marriages, and funerals, L. 13 more are raised. Of late, from some incidental causes which are not of a regularly productive or stable nature, they have considerably increased. At present there are 13 poor on the roll, who receive 2s, 2s 6d, 3s, and 4s per month. Families in distress are occasionally supplied from the funds *.

Population.—The state of population has been for some time very variable. From the late interruptions and threatened decay of the coal works, a great body of the people employed in them have removed to scenes more favourable to the regular and durable exercise of their occupations. In one village alone, Joppa, which was solely inhabited by coalliers, above 30 houses have been deserted, or suffered to fall to ruin, within the space of the last 4 years. To counterbalance in part, this deficiency of population, several families of new manufacturers, &c. have in the same period settled in Portobello, &c. A migratory colony, besides, of bathers, summer lodgers, &c. upon the same coast, continue every year to increase their numbers. But these cannot with propriety be rated

* A fund, or box as it is commonly named, is also supported in this and some of the neighbouring parishes, by the coalliers and carters, for the maintenance chiefly of their sick or disabled members. Little or nothing is provided for their widows or surviving children. But, if the scheme were placed upon a more liberal and advantageous footing: were its objects in some sense reversed, and its chief expenditure devoted to the support of the widows and orphans, instead of being consumed in expensive funerals, and engrossed in the selfish sustenance of the subscribers themselves, it might become a truly valuable and praiseworthy establishment.

rated among the established inhabitants of the parish. By the accounts returned to Dr Webster in 1755, the number was

In the year 1794, the number of souls was found to be 910, of whom there were 428 males, and 482 females. Births the same year, 45. Deaths cannot so accurately be ascertained, as they are not registrated by those who belong to the associations, or boxes of carters, &c. No individual of very great age at present lives in the parish; but there are 7 persons above 80, in vigorous health; one of whom verges towards 90.

Character of the Inhabitants.—The people in general of the parishes in the immediate vicinity of the metropolis, are necessarily of a very mixed character, and too frequently more corrupted comparatively, in the lower ranks, than in situations more remote, and less exposed to the contagious effects of such a neighbourhood. In every country, persons employed in the active exercises of husbandry, have generally displayed an inoffensive simplicity, and laudable regularity of manners. For this character they have probably been much indebted to the order which they are obliged to observe in all their proceedings, to the returning, continued regularity of their employment, to the moderate but uniform profits which they draw from their labours, and to their happy seclusion from evil communications and scenes of corruption. The labourers and husbandmen of this district preserve the same general character, though the frequent and unavoidable intercourse with the city which they are necessitated to maintain, has not been without its polluting effects. Coalliers have generally exhibited a direct contrast to this simplicity and regularity of manners; and where they have not enjoyed the singular advantages of prudent directors and wholesome discipline, they have been unhappily too often distinguished by rudeness,

rudeness, disorder, and profligacy. The degrading operation of that state of villainage from which they have so recently escaped, the corrupting tendency of that injudicious management by which they have since been influenced, their irregular and sometimes exorbitant gains, which at one time overstocks, and at another starves them, and which commonly puts it in their power, by the fruit of three days labour, to pass the rest of the week in absolute idleness, or in sottish indulgence; nay, the very darkness, dirt, and unrestrained intercourse which prevails in their subterraneous regions, unawed by the eyes or the opinions of the world above, may all combine to produce or to aggravate this degradation of manners. In the coallery of Dudingston, there have been some agreeable exceptions to this general description, though its application to the prevalent hue of such scenes of darkness, is too legitimate and congruous. Manufactures of every kind have commonly been thought unfavourable to purity of manners. The profits which they afford are greater, and more irregular than those of husbandry. In truth, wherever men are collected together in considerable numbers, corruption is generated; and as there will probably be some amongst them found of depraved manners, the contagion is too apt to spread around. Where the conductors themselves are men of steady principle, or where the more respectable workmen acquire an ascendancy, a spirit of serious enquiry, and strict behaviour is sometimes introduced among the manufactures, which may tempt the world to call them too good. And where the reverse takes place, a spirit of licentiousness and disorder will prevail, which even the indulgent morality of the world may pronounce to be too bad. Of both these descriptions of characters, the manufacturers of this district afford examples. Though such moral and secondary causes may thus tend to communicate a general complexion
or

or colour to the manners of a country, profession, or family, the spirit of religion may certainly powerfully counteract the evil peculiar to each situation, or improve and perfect the good. The spirit of religion, however, is not so prevalent or general in this place, as to produce effects which can be very ostensibly visible, or extensively felt. A great proportion of the people, however, are regular and decent in their attendance upon religious exercises, and display a correspondent practice in the integrity, usefulness and beneficence of their common conduct. The more defective are certainly, in the language of the usual comparative and consolatory apologies of the world, not worse than their neighbours.

NUMBER

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF ST. NINIANS.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

*By the Rev. Mr SHERIFF.**Name.*

THE ancient name of this parish was Eggles. The appellation is derived from the eminence of the place of worship, *ecclesia*, by which the parish was distinguished. The modern name, both of the parish and of its principal village, St. Ninians, is derived from St. Ninian, whose history is not certainly known. The following conjecture is, however, sufficiently probable to give some gratification to the curious. According to Buchanan *, Dongardus succeeded to the kingdom of Scotland in the year 452. About this period, the Scottish ecclesiastics were infected with the Pelagian heresy. Palladius was employed by Celestine to oppose the Pelagians: and Ninianus is mentioned among his disciples, as highly distinguished, both by the extent of his learning and the sanctity of his life. The character of

VOL. XVIII.

3 C

those

* Book 5th.

those times gives sufficient reason to believe, that Ninian was afterwards canonized : and as no other saint of that name occurs in our history, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that St. Ninian's Row in Edinburgh, St. Ninian's Well in this place, as well as this parish and village, received their appellations in honour of this pious reformer.

It is not necessary to suppose that the parish adopted the name of the saint immediately after his death, or even immediately after his canonization. In our own times, new buildings have assumed the names of ancient saints ; whilst a charter, belonging to the abbacy of Cambuskenneth, furnishes a reason for limiting the present name of the parish to the latter years of the papal supremacy in Scotland.

The names of the other villages are generally of English extraction. To this class, belong Newmarket, Miltown, Charterhall, Clayhills, Newhouse, and Bannockburn. Powmilne and Polmaise appear to be derived from *pou*, a provincial word, signifying a watery place. From the Gaelic we must learn the meaning of such names as these : Touch, Touch-adam, Touch-gorm, Auchenbowie, and Auchenlilly, Linspout.

Situation.—The parish belongs to the synod of Perth and Stirling, and to the presbytery of Stirling. It is bounded on the east by the parish of Airth ; on the south, by Larbart, Dunipace, and Kilsyth ; on the west, by Fintry and Gargunnock ; the river Forth, if the small space occupied by the parish of Stirling be excepted, separates it on the north from Kincardine, Lecropt, Logie, and Alloa.

Extent.—The road between Powbridge, the eastern extremity of the parish, and Randyford, the western extremity, measures between 15 and 16 miles : but as the figure of the
parish

parish is irregular, its extent may be computed, at a medium, about 10 miles from east to west, and about 6 miles from north to south.

The appearance of the Parish ancient and modern.—The parish is naturally divided into three regions. The most northerly division is called the Carfes. The carfes are flat lands lying along the banks of the Forth, from the east to the west end of the parish: these lands, in a plain but a little raised above the level of the Forth, extend southward from one to two or three miles.

The dryfield lands form the middle division. These rise suddenly and considerably above the level of the carfes, and occupy by much the most extensive part of the parish. The muirlands form the highest region and the most southerly division. They rise considerably above the level of the dryfield grounds, and occupy, it is supposed, somewhat more than a fourth part of the whole extent of the parish.

It is highly probable, that not only a great part of the dryfield lands, but that a great part of the muirlands also was originally covered with wood. The royal forest of Dundaff must have covered the high lands, which are still called by the name of the lands of Dundaff. The royal forest of Stirling must have covered the rising grounds to the south of that town. An extensive moss renders it probable, that even the low lands of the parish, especially to the north east, were once covered with trees. There can be no doubt, that at an early period, the Torwood occupied much of the lands of the parish to the east and to the south east.

The limits of the carse and dryfield lands, still assume the general appearance of the banks of a river, and give plausibility to an opinion, that the carse lands were originally covered

by the water of the Forth. But be this as it may, the history of the battle of Bannockburn, gives sufficient evidence that the carses, in the Reign of King Robert Bruce, formed an almost impassible morafs.

It is by no means probable, that the exertions of art were much employed in improving the original appearance of the parish. We have few monuments of antiquity, except the Roman causeway which enters the parish at the Torwood, and passes through it in a north-westerly direction.

The ruins found in the Muirland, near the source of the Carron, should, with some others in the parish, have been passed over in silence, were they not generally supposed to be the remains of a castle, the residence of Sir John the Graham, who fell in the battle of Falkirk, defending the liberty of his country, against the ambition of Edward.

Present Appearance.—The present appearance of the parish is very different from its former state; the face of the country is naturally beautiful, and the natural beauty of the hills and vallies is increased by the windings of the Forth, by innumerable inclosures, by many young thriving plantations, by a variety of villages, and by several genteel houses, appearing in different parts of the parish.

The carses are now esteemed as valuable as any land in North-Britain. They have already attained the highest degree of modern cultivation; and generally produce luxuriant crops of wheat, barley, oats, peas, beans, flax, and artificial grasses.

The dryfields are in general arable, and have likewise reached a considerable degree of cultivation. They produce the same crops with the carses; though the produce of the latter be generally superior to the produce of the former, both in quantity and quality.

The

The muirlands are in general most profitably employed in rearing black cattle and sheep; though in many places they are arable, and might on every farm supply the quantity of corn consumed by the feuars and tenants.

Agriculture in the Carfes.—Rotation of Crops.—A farm is divided into six parts. The first part is laid down in fallow, the second part in wheat, the third in beans, the fourth in barley, the fifth in grafs, the sixth in oats. The rotation on each of these six parts is the same, viz. fallow, wheat, beans, barley, grafs, oats. The only difference consists in the crop with which the rotation begins. The first part begins with fallow, &c. according to the present condition of the land.

Tillage.—The fallow whilst preparing for a crop of wheat, is ploughed six times, if the weather be favourable; the fields for beans or oats once, for barley thrice or four times; grafses are usually sown with the barley.

Manure.—Eight chalders of lime are allowed to an acre. The lime is thrown on the fallow after the fifth plowing, and immediately before the sixth plowing, when the wheat is sown. Dung is laid on the ground that is preparing for barley; seventy carts are allowed to an acre. No other manure, for the most part, is employed during one rotation of six years.

Seed and Produce.—Two firlots of wheat sown on an acre, return from eight to ten bolls. Three firlots of barley sown on an acre, return seven bolls. One boll or five firlots of oats sown on an acre, return six or seven bolls. Five or six firlots of beans sown on an acre, return seven or eight bolls. Two firlots of rye grafs, with six or eight pounds of clover
sown

sown on an acre, usually return about 200 stones of hay. The carse farmers usually confine themselves to one crop of grass.

Seed-time, &c.—Beans are sown about the beginning of March; oats about the latter end of March; barley about the latter end of April; wheat some time before or about the first of November.

Harvest usually begins about the middle of August, and ends about the last of September.

The cultivation of the dryfield lands is somewhat different from the cultivation of the carses. The succession of crops in the dryfield is commonly in the following order: Oats two years, barley one year, grass one year, pasture two years. Where the ground is very good, peas and beans instead of oats are sometimes sown in the second year of the rotation.

Land preparing for oats, peas or beans, is ploughed once. Ground for barley twice. Grasses are usually sown with the barley.

Lime is laid on the dryfield lands in the month of August, immediately after the grass crop is cut. It is not ploughed down. Seven chalders are allowed to an acre. Dung is laid on the ground, preparing for barley; sixty carts drawn by one horse, are allowed to an acre. When beans and peas are sown, the dung is laid upon the ground preparing for them. Neither more nor other manure is almost ever used during one rotation of six years. There is marle in the parish, but the use of it has of late been almost entirely discontinued.

Five firlots of oats sown on an acre, return seven bolls. Three firlots of barley sown on an acre, return seven bolls. Five firlots of peas and beans sown on an acre, return six or seven bolls. Half a boll of rye-grass seed, and eight pounds of
of

of red, and four pounds of white clover seed sown on an acre, return 200 stones of hay.

Oats are sown about the middle of March. Barley about the beginning of May. Beans about the first of March.

Oats and beans are reaped about the middle of September. Barley about the latter end of August.

When wheat is sown on the dryfield lands, which is not generally done, the preparation, excepting two plowings, is the same as in the carses.

The carse land is too wet during winter, for the profitable cultivation of turnips; they are sometimes sown on the dryfields.

A few potatoes are planted by almost every farmer, whether in the carses or in the dryfields. Three bolls planted on an acre return about sixty bolls. A little flax also is generally sown after potatoes. Twelve pecks of lintseed sown on an acre, return thirty six stones of lint from the mill. Different kinds of ploughs are used. The price also varies from 12s. to L. 2 : 12s : 6d. Two horses are usually put to a plough; and are sufficient to cultivate a farm of thirty acres.

It need hardly be added, that these statements have been made at an average, and must frequently and considerably vary according to the circumstances of particular seasons, and of different farmers.

Roads.—Seven miles of the great turnpike road from Edinburgh to Stirling, five or six miles of the turnpike road from Stirling to Glasgow, about twelve miles of the road from Dunbarton to the ferry near Alloa, lie in this parish. All our roads and bridges are kept in excellent repair by the attention of the country gentlemen. The expences are defrayed by the produce of the tolls, or of the statute labour.

About

About twelve years ago, an act of parliament was obtained for the better regulation of the statute work in the county of Stirling. By that act, instead of statute labour, leave is given to assess the land in 18s ster. for every L. 100 Scots of the valued rent.

Rivers.—The water of Endrick, famous for its trouts, rises in our muirlands; and after running westward through the parishes of Fintry, Balfron, Killearn, Drymen, and Buchanan, empties itself into Loch Lomond.

Bannockburn (so called, (*Majoris Historia*) because on it was made the meal of the bannocks, or panis cineritius of the Romans; cakes toasted under the ashes were called bannocks), receives its water partly from Loch Coulter, and partly from the high lands in the north west part of the parish. It takes its course towards the north east, and falls into the Forth within the bounds of the parish. This small river might be employed to great advantage by the manufacturer or artisan.

The Carron runs along the southern boundary of the parish for five miles and an half. The Poems of Ossian have marked the banks of this river as the scene of battle between the Romans and the independent clans of the north.

It has been thought, though it cannot be certainly determined, that the Earl's burn, the Earl's hill, a hill and a rivulet in the muirland part of the parish, derived their names from the residence of some feudal baron or earl in the neighbourhood of the Carron. It is natural to suppose, that Gillies hill, another hill in the muirland part of the parish, derives its name from the name Gill or Gillies. The names both of Gillies and Morison occur in the muirlands. It is certain, that the fair lady, mother of Gill Morice, "lived on the Carron side." This union of facts and probabilities suggests to the imagination, though it cannot persuade the judgement

that this parish was the scene of the tragical song, known by the name of Gill Morice. The Carron was once distinguished by a cascade called Auchintillilin's spout. It is now distinguished by a very extensive iron manufactory in the parish of Larbert.

The Forth is the only great river with which we are concerned. It forms the boundary of the parish on the north. The length of the river from Gargunnock where it meets, to Kersey where it leaves this parish, is more than sixteen miles, though the distance betwixt these places does not in a straight line exceed half that extent. The windings of the Forth have been remarked and admired by every traveller of taste; but whilst they beautify the country, they render the navigation of the river peculiarly tedious. A minute description of the Forth seems altogether unnecessary, as the Forth or ancient Bodotria is sufficiently known to every student of British history.

Loch Coulter, the only considerable loch in the parish, extends about two miles in circumference. It abounds with perches and eels, and lies in the muirland part of the parish. It is currently reported, on the evidence of witnesses still alive, that about twenty-four years ago, by some convulsion of nature, a stone weighing nearly a ton was thrown from its bed in the loch to the distance of some yards to the northward.

The Carron frequently overflows a considerable tract of meadow and some arable land on its banks. Some of the low lying lands on the banks of the Forth are subjected to the overflowings of the river. A considerable farm called Boll-for-nought, probably from its being gained from the Forth, is particularly subject to this inconvenience. The wall with which it is surrounded has sometimes been broken down by the weight of the water, and the greater part of the land overflowed.

It may be proper in this place to observe, that several years ago, a remarkable *water spout* emptied itself, partly on the lands of Touch, and partly on the lands of Touch-adam. The water which fell on the lands of Touch, carried off some cattle, several houses with their furniture. A few of the inhabitants were drowned. The water which fell on the lands of Touch adam, directed its course towards the village of St. Ninians, and carried off a bridge and two houses, together with a great quantity of earth from the minister's glebe and some other places.

No other remarkable phenomena of this kind are talked off, excepting two shocks of an earthquake, which in one night, about thirty years ago, were very generally felt in the parish and neighbourhood.

There are several mineral springs in the parish; but they are not at present much frequented.

We have several merchants who retail the articles of ordinary consumption.

We have no great manufactories. Four tanneries employ about 20 hands. Four masters employ about 113 hands in making nails. One hand works from 1000 to 1200 nails per day.

The most considerable manufacture is carried on at Bannockburn. Of late cotton-cloth, and for a long time, all the tartan used by the army, has been manufactured at this village.

There are three coal-works in the parish; one at Auchinbowie, one at Pleanmuir, one at Bannockburn. These works taken together, raise about 600 tons of coal per week. They supply the adjacent country, especially to the west and north, to a very considerable extent.

The parish abounds with lime-stone. At present, however, it is not wrought to any considerable extent, except at Craig-
end

end and Murray's-hall. At Murray's-hall, from 12 to 13 chalders of lime are wrought by about 17 hands. The burning season begins about April, and ends about Martinmas. The lime is wrought under ground, in the same manner as coal. The seam of lime is from 5 feet 6, to five feet 8 or 10 inches thick. At Craig-end, 16 men and 2 horses are employed in working yearly about 2000 chalders of lime. The seam at this work, is about 5 feet 8 inches. By a chalders is meant 6 bolls pease measure. A chalders of shells is equal to 18 or 19 bolls of flacked lime. The lime at both these works is of the first quality. An experiment was made at Craig-end; and in 96 bolls of lime, there was found only one boll of sand.

From 50 to 100 hands are usually employed in malting, and in distilling aquavita. There are at least 6 distilleries in the parish. Some of them at present, (November 1794,) are not employed.

Price of Provisions.—Wheat, 21s per boll, Stirling measure; barley, 19s; oats, 14s; pease, 17s; beans, 18s; potatoes, 4d per peck; hay, 4d per stone; beef, 4d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lib. mutton, 4d do.; veal, 4d; pork, 3d; a hen, 1s 3d; a duck, 10d; butter, 9d per lib. cheese, 3d $\frac{1}{2}$; milk, per pint Scotch, 2d; eggs, per dozen, 4d; whisky, 1s 6d per pint; strong beer, 5d; small beer, per gallon English, 4d; coal per ton Dutch, 5s 4d; candle per lib. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; cows graze for six months, 30s; stone of smeared wool, 4s 3d; stone of white washed wool, 7s; salmon from 4d to 1s per lib.

Price of Labour.—A weaver 14d per day; shoemaker 14d do; stocking-maker 1s; taylor 10d with victuals; carpenter 9s per week; cart and plough-wright 8s per week; mason 20d per day; black-smith 9s per week; tanner 15d per day;

maltster 12 guineas with victuals, *per annum*; man-servant *per annum*, with victuals, L. 9 or 10; nailer 15d per day; wool-comber 15d; maid-servant with victuals, L. 4; day-labourer 14d; gardener 14d; flater 2s 3d per day; cooper per week, with board, 4s; baker, *per annum*, with board, L. 11; sieve-wright per week, with board, 3s 6d; clock-maker per week, with board, 10s; wheel-wright do, 4s; miner per week, 10s; tanners from 9s to 7s per week.

Rent.—The valued rent of the parish certified to the Exchequer in the year 1661, amounted to L. 20,861 Scots. But according to the subdivision stated by the Commissioners of Supply, it does not exceed L. 20,710 of the same money.

In the year 1775, the minister applying for an augmentation of stipend, stated the real rental of the parish at L. 12,663 sterling. But as it is certain, that the rent of land, of coal, and of lime, has risen considerably since that time, the real rental at present cannot be computed at less than L. 15,000 sterling.

The landholders amount at present to the number of 132; 51 have held their property for 14 years; 36 have succeeded as heirs; 45 have purchased their estates: 25 possess L. 100 valued rent and upwards; 47 possess from L. 20 to L. 100 valued rent; 60 possess from L. 1 to L. 20 valued rent.

Meetings of Landholders.—These proprietors have in the school-house a commodious room, where they usually meet for transacting business. Ten days, sabbaths not included, previous to a meeting of Landholders, intimation of the time and cause of the meeting must be made by letter, to such of their number as do not reside in the parish; to such as reside, similar

similar intimation is given from the precentor's desk, after divine service is concluded.

These meetings provide for, and superintend the building and repairing of the church, manse, school-house, manse-office-houses, and the walls of the glebe and church-yard. They have a right to inspect the expenditure of the funds committed to the management of the Kirk Session. They have a right to inspect the expenditure of vacant stipend. They have at present the principal management of the provision made for the poor. They almost alone nominate to the office of schoolmaster; and as landholders in the parish, they have a limited right to vote in the election of ministers, serving in the church established by law. Every cause is determined by a majority of votes. Records of their transactions are kept by their clerk, and appeals may be made to the Court of Session, from any decision supposed to be illegal or irregular.

The considerable estates, are Touch, Touch-adam, and Polmaise, Sauchie, Bannockburn, Craigforth, Auchenbowie, Stuart-hall, Throsk, Carnock, Grunyards, Plean, and lands belonging to the town and hospitals of Stirling. Few of the proprietors of these estates reside in the parish.

Population.—Though the inhabitants of the parish have been frequently numbered, we are not able by authentic records, to ascertain its ancient population.

In the year 1755, the population returned to Dr Webster, amounted to 6491. In 1792, it amounted to 7079. It is beyond a doubt, that the population of the parish is increasing. The decrease of population by the uniting of farms in the country, is more than compensated by the increase of the inhabitants in the villages.

Farmers.—

Farmers.—Some of our farmers have been favoured with a liberal education. A few of them have been instructed in the rudiments of the Latin language. Almost all of them have been taught writing and arithmetic, as well as to read the English language with understanding and ease. Most of them from their earliest years are inured to manual labour. Nor are the operations of carting, plowing, &c. confined to their earlier years; many of them always, and most of them occasionally, lend their personal labour to the cultivation of their grounds.

As our farmers in general do not enjoy the luxuries of affluence, so few of them are subjected to the miseries of extreme poverty. Their diet is usually frugal; but occasions are not wanting when they enjoy with temperance the comforts of the table. Their mental qualifications are not inferior to their external advantages. This valuable order of society, is in this place distinguished by no inconsiderable degree of manly intelligence and general information.

A careful and candid observer will not deny, that our farmers are in general frugal, industrious, and moderately happy; at the same time he must acknowledge, that their circumstances might, in many respects, be considerably improved. It is not altogether without reason, that they complain of the small extent and of the high rents of their farms. Their dwelling houses, with a few exceptions, are confessedly incommodious. Though the vestiges of their original slavery be gradually wearing away, they are not as yet completely effaced. In some baronies, the farmers work the hay, and in others, they cart the coals of the landholders. Thirlage is an obvious grievance. Thirlage is a low kind of monopoly by which the tenant is obliged to make all, or some part of his meal, at one specified mill. The consequences of thirlage are similar to the consequences
of

of all other monopolies : Fraud, extortion, insolence, and inferior workmanship. If these crimes be seldom committed, the cause must be sought in the miller, not in the nature of the monopoly.

Manufacturers and others.—The education and manners of our manufacturers so nearly resemble the education and manners of our farmers, that a description of the latter in a great measure supercedes the necessity of describing the former. Though distinguished by some peculiarities inseparable from their professions, our manufacturers possess a degree of enlargement of mind, which reflects considerable honour on the order.

This happy effect must chiefly be ascribed to the general causes which are every where diffusing an ennobling light through the mass of mankind. In this place, however, some other causes contribute a subordinate influence to enlighten the minds of our people. The absence of great manufactories, by obliging the individual to transact business for himself, prevents the degradation of mind which invariably follows a minute subdivision of labour. Many of our manufacturers, as well as of our farmers, are admitted to the office of an elder in the different congregations connected with the parish. The duties and privileges of the office, tend not only to enlarge the minds of the elders, but enable them also in their intercourse with others, to extend the sphere of general information. Add to this, that the public business, in most of our congregations, is conducted on a very liberal plan. The great body of the congregation is frequently assembled and consulted, and the habit of thinking acquires additional strength from the opinions which, on these occasions, are openly proposed and discussed.

But

But be the causes what they will, the fact is undeniable, that a considerable degree of intelligence is possessed by the great body of the people.

Poor.—The poor are well supported. The number of villages, the vicinity of the coal and lime-works, the ease with which feuars build houses, and the low rent at which they can afford to let them, have induced many indigent people to take up their residence in this parish. After many attempts to ameliorate the condition of the poor had been made and abandoned by the Heritors and Kirk Session, the present scheme was in the year 1774, adopted by the county of Stirling. The poor live in their own houses, and receive a monthly pension, according to their circumstances. A committee of residing heritors, the minister, some elders, and other parishioners, meet on the first Thursday of every month, and superintend the payments made to the poor, according to a roll made up by the committee at a private meeting.

The funds are raised from,

1. An assessment on the land at a certain rate, per cent. the one half payable by the proprietors, the other by the tenants, according to their respective valued rents. This rate is fixed at a general meeting, held annually for the purpose. The rate has never been below 12s per L. 100 valued rent, nor above 16s, except in 1783, when it rose to 18s.

2. A voluntary contribution from the inhabitants of the villages.

3. The balance of the Session funds, after paying the usual accounts.

4. The produce of the deceased pensioners effects, sold by public auction.

5. The

5. The weekly collection at the parish church.

6. Dues from the mortcloths.

The number of pensioners varies every month. The following Table contains the number of pensioners, and the sums expended for 15 years.

				£.	s.	d.
A. D.	1776	-	99 pensioners,	165	11	4
	—77	-	104 - -	201	12	1½
	—78	-	105 - -	201	18	6½
	—79	-	99 - -	197	16	3
	—80	-	109 - -	202	6	8½
	—81	-	117 - -	197	18	10
	—82	-	111 - -	214	6	6
	—83	-	119 - -	237	13	3
	—84	-	127 - -	256	8	9
	—85	-	106 - -	206	19	5
	—86	-	111 - -	210	10	7½
	—87	-	110 - -	218	8	3½
	—88	-	110 - -	217	13	4½
	—89	-	112 - -	222	4	11
	—90	-	101 - -	210	10	11

About two years ago, the Session received about L. 1000 sterling, by a will : On a day fixed by the will of the Donor, the interest of this sum is divided amongst the poorest inhabitants of the village of St. Ninians.

Ecclesiastical Estate.—It appears from the registers, that from the year 1655, to the year 1732, the office of minister of the Gospel in this parish, was successively held by Messrs George Bennet, William Fogo, James Fullerton, James Forsyth, William Couper, John Logan, Archibald Gibson.

Mr James Mackie, was admitted March 1734. This settlement was promoted by the Heritors, in opposition to a great proportion of the inhabitants of the parish. During this incumbency, about one half, it is reported, of the inhabitants of the parish, left the Established Church, and joined the Secession.

Mr John Gibson with consent of all parties, was admitted May 1754, and till his translation to Edinburgh, 1765, the parish continued almost in the same state in which he found it.

The next settlement was opposed by almost the whole parish. In June, however, 1773, the eighth year of a process before the General Assembly, the patron prevailed, and Mr David Thomson was admitted minister. The Establishment was then abandoned by the great body of its adherents. These, with a few others from neighbouring parishes, joined themselves to the Communion of the Presbytery of Relief. A large house was erected; a minister called and ordained; and a stipend was fixed at L. 100 *per annum*. This stipend is principally raised from the produce of the seat-rents.

Previous to Mr Thomson's death in 1787, his hearers were indulged with the choice of the assistant preacher. From this period, the adherents of the Establishment were gradually augmented. In the year 1788, they resolved from voluntary contributions, to purchase the right of Patronage; though the price amounted to a sum, between L. 600 and L. 700 ster. the resolution was soon carried into effect, and a young man, who was appointed to preach in the church during the vacancy occasioned by Mr Thomson's death, was admitted minister in October 1788.

The right of presentation is now lodged with a committee of 9. The committee consists of 3 elders, 3 heritors, and 3 heads of families. The members of this committee, are
chosen

chosen by the people, and hold their places for life, if they continue in full communion with the Establishment. The committee is obliged to present in due time and according to the rules of the church whatever candidate is recommended to them by a majority of votes. Every head of a family in full communion with the Establishment, has a right to vote in the election of a minister.

In 1746, The church, which the Highland army had converted into a magazine, was blown up; but whether by design or accident, is not known; several lives were lost by the explosion. It is remarkable enough, that the steeple remained entire. It stands at a considerable distance from the present church, and never fails to excite the traveller's surprise at such an unusual disjunction.

The New Church was built soon after the destruction of the other. It is 75 by 53 feet within the walls, and at present in complete repair.

About 5 miles south-west of the church, there is another place of worship. The heritors of the muirland part of the parish erected this chapel, and the minister or his assistant, usually preaches there on the first sabbath of every month.

The stipend was settled as follows, by a decret of modification and locality, of date February 1785. " The Lords of
" Council and Session, modified, discerned, and ordained,
" and hereby modify, discern, and ordain the constant stipend and provision of the kirk and parish of St. Ninian's,
" to have been for the crop and year of God 1776, and
" yearly since syne, and in all time coming, 4 chalders meal,
" 2 chalders bear, and L. 1000 Scots money for stipend,
" with L. 90 money foresaid for furnishing the Communion
" Elements; but have discerned, and hereby declare, 600
" merks of the said stipend shall be paid by the pursuer, to
" an assistant preacher or helper in the said parish, ay and
" until

“ until a new erection shall take place. And on such events
 “ happening, the said 600 merks shall go to the minister of
 “ the said new erection, as a part of his stipend; which
 “ modified stipend, and modification, for the Communion
 “ Elements, the said Lords discern, and ordain, to be paid
 “ yearly, locally, to the said pursuer and his successors in
 “ office, ministers serving the cure of the said parish, con-
 “ form to the division, and locality following.” The meal
 and bear according to the decret, must be given in before
 Candlemas, and the money must be paid, one half at Whit-
 funday, and the other half at Martinmas.

The school-master teaches Latin, Greek, English, book-keeping, &c. his salary paid by the heritors, is L. 14:12. his other perquisites amount to about L. 20, besides an excellent dwelling-house, school-house, garden, and the ordinary school fees.

There are many small schools in different parts of the parish; together with a Sabbath-evening school, in which the principles of religion are taught gratis, by one of the elders of the church.

Antiquities.—In early times, that tract of country now called Stirling-shire, was situated upon the confines of no less than 4 kingdoms. It had the North Umbrean and Cumbrean dominions on the south, and those of the Scots and Picts upon the north. Probably it belonged sometimes to one, and sometimes to another; for these powers were perpetually making encroachments on each other. Such a situation, puts it beyond a doubt, that St. Ninians must have been the field of contention, not only between parties and tribes, but likewise between nations. An attempt however, to perpetuate the memory of these contentions, were equally vain and fruitless. The wisdom of history has consigned them to de-
 served

served oblivion ; and to recover them by means of tradition, were only to augment the already too numerous monuments of the weakness and folly and crimes of mankind. Their magnitude and consequences, have perpetuated the memory of 3 battles, which the statistical reader will expect in the parish of St. Ninians.

The battle of Stirling, was fought on the 13th September 1297. The Scots were commanded by Wallace ; the English by Hugh Cressingham, and John Earl of Surry and Suffex. The defeat of the English, effected near Corn-town, on the northern banks of the Forth, was completed at the Torwood. The boundaries of the Torwood are much contracted, and that part of it which lay in this parish, is almost entirely removed.

The battle of Bannockburn, was fought in this parish, on Monday, the 24th June, 1314. The English Reader may find an account of this battle, in any British Historian. The Antiquarian will not be displeased with the following authentic description of Baſton.

Baſton, a Carmelite friar, and prior of a monastery in Scarborough, was reckoned one of the best poets of his age. Edward brought him with the English army to Scotland, that he might witness and celebrate the victory, which that monarch expected to obtain. The poet was taken prisoner, but obtained his liberty, on condition of composing a poem in honour of the victorious Scots. Independently of the transaction which it records, the poem itself is not the least of our curiosities*.

There

* *Baſtoni metra de illuſtri Bello de Bannockburn.*

De planctu cudo metrum, cum carmine nudo.

Risum retrudo, dum tali themate ludo.

Reſtor cœleſtis, adhibens ſolamina mœſtis,

Verax eſt teſtis ; que proſpera ferre poteſt his.

Quos

There are several vestiges of this battle in the parish. In a garden at New-house, two large stones still standing, were erected

Quos vincit restis, pro sindoni sordida vestis,
 Ploro sub his gestis, perimit quos torrida pestis.
 Bella parata fleo, lamentans sub canapeo,
 Subque rege reo, nescio, teste Deo.
 Est regnum duplex, et utrumque cupit dominari,
 Sed neutrum supplex vult a reliquo superari.
 Dum se sic jactant, cum Bacco nocte jocando
 Scotia, te maectant, verbis vanis reprobando;
 Dormitant, stertunt, quos irrita somnia mutant,
 Fortes te putant, patriæ confinia vertunt.
 Explicat exercitus splendentia signa per arva,
 Jam sunt dispersi, nimis est virtus sua parva.
 Fulminat ad bella præco, clamans dira novella,
 Pellea sicut mella, tanta durante procella.
 Nunc armatorum disponunt gesta virorum,
 Ne gens Anglorum vires enervet eorum.
 Tu fer vexillum, quo Scoti terrificentur,
 Agmina post illum, belli pro more sequentur;
 Arcetenens arcus tendas, nec sis modo parvus,
 Illic transmittas hostes perimendo sagittas;
 Istac tu tela vibris quasi fulgor, anhela,
 Non te pro tela, mortem feriendo revila.
 Obviet hic illis cum fundis atque lapillis,
 Pandens visana, faciendo concava plana.
 Et loca tu siste, tendantur ut arte balistæ,
 Examen triste populus denunciaret isle.
 Hastæ tolluntur, patriæ satrapes rapiuntur,
 Sic disponuntur, quod multi multa loquuntur.
 Format et informat Rex Scotus prælia dira.
 Sunt equites pedites; O quam congressio mira!
 Clamat; Rex animat Scotorum nobiliores,
 Citat, et invitat ad bella viros potiores:
 Cernit discernit acies pro morte paratas,
 Tales mortales gentis censet superatas.

Fatur,

erected in memory of the battle fought on the evening before
the battle of Bannockburn, between Randolph and Clifford.
The

Fatur, solatur turbas populi venientes.
Risit, derisit Anglorum fœdera gentis.
Fortis dux mortis digitos ad bella docebat,
Cervis protervis, nulla differre jubebat.
Lætus fit coitus, scitis rumoribus istis,
Stabit, pugnabit, sic fiet Anglia tristis.
Rex fortes tenet, et cunctis dat sua jura,
Quos armis munit, prædicens bella futura.
Imbre sagittali minuatur ab inguine sanguis,
Turbine lethali stimulet jaculator, ut anguis
Hasta teres fodiat proceris spargendo cruorem,
Missilibus cum pericibus renovando dolorem.
Timba securi pectora cruri scindere curet,
Tela vibrabit, sic superabit, si bene duret.
Mucro latet, nil posse patet, pro Marte valere,
Sors præterit quibus omen erat supplenda, replere
Machina plena malis pedibus formatur equinis,
Concavas cum palis, ne pergant absque ruinis.
Plebs foveas fodit, ut per eas labantur equestres,
Et pereant si quos videant transire pedestres.
Advena turba vocatur, Scotica gens muniatur,
Prima phalanx sociatur, regia vis comitatur.
Scandere nullus eorum terga valebit equorum,
Fient sic aliorum plures domini dominorum,
Exploratores mittunt hinc inde petentes,
Multos rumores sunt inter se referentes.
Dira dies solis pandit primordia molis
Angligenæ prolis, hinc exit, ab ore suo lis.
Arrida terra gerit Strivelini prælia prima,
Splendida turba ferit, sed tandem tendit ad ima.
Est dolor immensus, augente dolore dolorem;
Est furor accensus, stimulante furore furorem;
Est clamor crescens, feriente priore priorem;
Est valor arescens, frustrante valore valorem;

The place has lately received the name of Randolph-field.
On Brocks-brae, the Bore-stone, from a hole in its center,

is

Est calor ardescens, urente calore calorem ;
 Est gens demescens, reprobante minore minorem.
 Est stupor auditus, geminante stupore stuporem ;
 Est populus tritus, perdente timore timorem.
 Surgit rugitus, fundente cruore cruorem ;
 Nunc timor est scitus metuente timore timorem.
 Atra dies lunæ pestem renovat nocituram,
 Quam vi fortunæ facit Anglis Scotia duram.
 Anglicolæ, qui cœlicolæ, splendore nitescent
 Magnanimi, tanquam minimi, sub nocte quiescent.
 Expectat, spectat, gens Anglica quos nece plectat,
 Admotos Scotos, ab iis non longe remotos.
 Plebs plangit, clangit ; sed quam congressio tangit
 Nec plangit, frangit vires quas ictibus angit.
 Magnifici medici Scotorum sunt inimici ;
 Munifici medici potuit victoria dici ;
 Insultus stultus prætenditur ordine cultus ;
 Singultus multus erumpit ab aggere vultus,
 Descendens, frendens pedibus, gens Scotica tendens,
 Defendens, vendens sua prodit dira rependens.
 Hic rapit, hic capit, hic terit, hic ferit ; ecce dolores !
 Vox tonat, æs sonat, hic ruit ; hic luit arcta modo res.
 Hic secat, hic necat, hic docet, hic nocet, iste fugatur ;
 Hic latet, hic patet, hic premit, hic gemit, hic superatur ;
 Hic fremit, hic tremit, hic pavit, hic cavit, iste ligatur ;
 Hic legit, hic tegit, hic metit, hic petit, hic spoliatur ;
 Crescit inedia, corpora, prædia diripiuntur ;
 Heu mulieres, miles et hæres inficiuntur.
 Clare comes, venerande fomes Gloverniciæ cultor,
 Heu moriris, sub strage peris, sic fit Deus ultor.
 Trux Cliffordensis mucrone retunderis ensis
 Ictibus immensis ruis hostibus undique densis.
 Miles Marscallus Willelmus, in agmine fortis
 Scotorum callus tibi pandit vulnera mortis.

is said to have supported Bruce's standard. Some catthorps, or sharp pointed irons, have been found in Milton-bog. The Park-mill seems to have received its name from the park of wood, mentioned by Barbour in his description of the battle. About a mile from the field of battle, a party of English endeavoured to oppose the victorious army, and left the name of the Bloody Fold to the place where they fell; perhaps Sir Ingram Umfraville gave his name to Ingram's crook.

On the 11th of June, 1488, the field of Stirling, or the battle of Sauchie-burn, was fought on a tract of ground called

Audax Edmunde Maley, probitate virilis,
Tegens hostiles superat feritates abunde.
Belliger insignis Tibitoyt, quasi fervidus ignis,
Ensis et lignis cadis, inflat mors tua signis,
Nobilis argent. pugil, inclite dulcis ægidi,
Vix scieram mentem cum te succumbere vidi.
Quid fruar ambage, de tanta quid cano strage,
Vix poterat tragedia pandere schismata plagæ.
Nomina bellantum mea mens nescit numerari,
Quot, quæ, vel quantum mors novit ibi violari.
Multi mactantur, multi jaculis terebrantur.
Multi merguntur, multi vivi capiuntur.
Brois stringuntur, et munera multa petuntur.
Jam sunt ditati per eos et magnificati,
Qui primi strati fuerunt, velut apporiat,;
Per gyrum finis loca sunt vallata rapinis;
Verba repleta minis replicantur, et aucta ruinis,
Necis quid dicam, quam non sevi meto spicam,
Liquo doli tricam, pacem cœlo juris amicam,
Qui curat plura, scribendi sit sua cura;
Est mea mens dura, rudis et vox, ima litura.
Sum Carmelita, Baston cognomine dictus,
Qui doleo vita, in tali strage relictus,
Si quid deliqui, si quæ recitanda reliqui,
Hæc addant hi qui non sunt sermones iniqui.—FORDUN.

led Little Canglour, on the east side of a small brook called Sauchie-burn, about two miles south from Stirling, and about one mile from the field of Bannockburn.

Beaton's Mill, the house where James III. was put to death, is still standing, and may be ranked amongst the numerous monuments of that ambition, which often endangered, and in the end, ruined the Royal Family of Stuart.

NUMBER

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF KILDRUMMY.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT LUMSDEN.

Geography and Natural History.

THE annals of the 12th century mention this parish by its present name, which is pure Celtic, though a little differently enunciated in that tongue. It signifies *the little Burial Mount*. It is situated on the banks of the Don, about 40 English miles from its mouth near Aberdeen, and about 20 from its sources, in the mountains of Curgarff. It is unequally divided by the river, which the people commonly pass upon stilts; which are poles or stakes, about 6 feet in length, with a step on one side, on which the passenger raised about 2 feet from the ground, resting them against his sides and armpits, and moving them forward by each hand, totters through. This shows the river is not navigable. It is however moderately stocked with the two kinds of trout, common to all the smaller rivers on the eastern side of the kingdom.

The parish separated from its neighbours, on every side by pretty high hills, may be considered as a level valley, from 2

to 3 miles square, to which is adjoined a narrow stripe, stretched between the north side of the parish of Auchendoir, and the mountains, for 3 or 4 miles in an easterly direction; suggesting by its form to a fanciful imagination, the idea of the paste-board kite, which Dr Franklin first raised into the thunder cloud.

Productions.—The soil may be regarded as for the most part a rich deep gravelly loam, supposed to be the most fertile in this great county, the boll of bear weighing 20 stone Dutch, and on a well cultivated field, in a favourable season, 2 or 3 stones more in the boll are generally expected.

The outfield is still managed in the most ancient fashion; but all the modern improvements in the science of agriculture, have been introduced into the infield; bear is spoken of by its own proper name, and though pease, potatoes, turnip, flax, and artificial grasses, have been long enumerated among the productions of the parish, oats are still scarcely known by any other name, than that of corn; carrying back our imagination to that state of society, when this was the only grain known in the country. There are inexhaustible quarries of free-stone, fit for all the purposes both of the most substantial and ornamental architecture; but rarely found hard enough for mill-stones.

Lime is brought for manure in considerable quantities from the parish of Cabrach on the north, which Dr Anderson, in his report to the Board of Agriculture, seems to have considered as in the county of Banff; and he has not been informed that the parish of Glenbucket on the west, contains an inexhaustible store of this fertilizing mineral, because by an ill directed policy of the landlord, it has been there for some years locked up; for as both the stone and peat in that very inland district are more than equal to the consumpt of all generations,

generations, this restraint must have been imposed from the idea of inducing the people to bestow that labour on the soil, which would be otherwise laid out on the calcination and carriage of lime-stone. In a country, where the whole cattle are supported during the summer, on widely extended mountain pasturage inaccessible to the plough, and where the whole arable land is under crop at farthest by the middle of June, there is an interval of nearly 3 months, in which the whole operations of the field are necessarily suspended, when the industry of the people coinciding with their own inclination, might be more profitably exerted in making lime for sale, than by their present casual and often misguided exertions. On the other hand, the liberty of following their own judgement with regard to the use of lime on their farms, would do more to promote the improvement of the soil, than the present arbitrary restriction which evidently discourages, rather than excites their industry.

It is hardly of importance to mention, that there is a considerable extent of natural birch-wood, on a bank overhanging a brook winding near the castle; and small plantations of forest and fir-trees at the manors of Clova and Brux.

The horses, though of a small size, are of a fine figure, spirited and hardy. They appear to be an unmixed breed, that has for ages past been raised in this quarter of the country. If properly broke, and well kept, they would make fine pownies for ladies, and for an airing in the country. They are sold from L. 4 or L. 5 to L. 12 or L. 14 ster. Of late, their service has been required for the plough and cart. In former times, when there were no carts in the country, and when the plough was drawn by oxen, their labour was restricted to the harrow,—to carrying out the dung in baskets on their sides—bringing in the corn, and exporting the meal and other commodities in panniers to the Aberdeen market.

The black cattle are not smaller than in any other district of the county; and they are often of a finer pile and form, to which the herbage of the rich soil, and the warm sheltered situation are presumed to contribute.

Their number and their value are so often varied, by the rise or fall of the demand or of the price, that these particulars cannot with any responsible precision be stated.

Although there are but few farms on which there are no sheep kept, yet this kind of stock is of no distinguished consideration, has received but slight attention, and been regarded rather as a matter of domestic accommodation, than of commerce or agricultural profit. To render this stock of proper account, it is requisite to take measures in summer, for securing a certain and more plentiful supply of food, during the snows of winter, and the cold weather, and the scanty pasturage of the spring months.

There has never been any measurement or survey of the parish. The number of arable acres may be supposed about a fifth part of the whole; the outfield may be about a third part more in quantity than the infield: Originally they must have been nearly of the same quantity, and of equal value; but at present, there is certainly a great difference. The outfield may be accounted worth 5s the acre, and the infield may be valued about a guinea; but as the number of acres is no where ascertained, and as the rents are paid in meal and money, in customs and services to the heritor, and to the miller, neither landlord nor tenant can say with any precision, what the rent may be by the acre.

On most farms it would be proper to remove the buildings to the vicinity of the outfields, and to cultivate them in a suitable rotation of crops, with the application of the whole manure, and a proper allowance for lime; while the infields, if enclosed and laid out in artificial grass, would for some years,

years, be more valuable than in corn; and by this means, the whole land would in a short time rise to the value of a pound or guinea the acre; but to effectuate this, the purse of the landlord must be conjoined with the labour of the tenant, an encouraging length of lease must be given to the tenant, and a progressive rise of rent to the landlord.

The parish is at present shared among 4 heritors. Charles Gordon of Ward-house, Esq. holds about the one half, the principal messuage of the Earls of Marre; Harry Lumfden, Esq. of Auchendoir, has Clova and the north; the south is possessed by Jonathan Forbes of Brux, Esq.; and part of the estate of Alexander Leith of Glenkindy, Esq. stretches from the parish of Towie on the west.

Population.—There is no record extant by which the population of very ancient times can be in any way ascertained. It may be presumed, it has at no time been materially different from what it is at present; for the number of the retainers of the Earls of Marre about the castle, must be more than balanced by that of the improvers lately settled upon a considerable extent of moor, which was formerly wholly waste. In 1755, the number was 562 souls. At present, the number is 568, of whom 221 are males, and 347 females. Some of them are craftsmen, shoemakers, taylor, smiths, necessary for the occasions of the country; yet all of them possess some land, and are so frequently engaged in the operations of agriculture, that the whole may be regarded as farmers, there being no town or village in the parish.

Miscellaneous Remarks.—The Scots language, with the enunciation peculiar to the county of Aberdeen, is the only tongue spoken in the parish; but many of the names of places are of the Gaelic language: the names of some of the farms
in

in the vicinity of the castle, indicate them to have been allocated for the support of the respective offices of that ancient establishment, such as Cook's hill, Gardener's hill, &c.

Peat is the only fuel used; though this article is seldom bought or sold, it is so distant from many of the farms, that the corns are generally dried upon the kilns by heath; the support of the fire being commonly committed through the day, to any of the children of 6 or 8 years old, not otherwise engaged; yet there is no instance of any kiln being burnt.

The prices of labour, of poultry, and of all commodities are the same, as in the town and markets of Aberdeen.

Antiquities.—The castle among the objects of antiquity, claims the first regard. From the river Don, winding along the bottom of the hill, which separates the parish from that of Cushnie on the south, the country gradually rises towards the corner, where the ridge on the west, joins the mountain on the north side of the parish: A brook rising in the angle formed by that junction, seems in some remote age, to have directed its course southerly, along the bottom of the western ridge, right onwards to the river, and in that direction, formed a pretty deep hollow; but has afterwards fallen into an easterly course, and thereby for a little way, formed a deep and narrow defile along the bottom of the mountain on the north, until it regains its former direction towards the river. By this means, it may be presumed, the eminence has been formed on which the castle is placed.

Tradition bears, that it originally consisted but of one great circular tower, of 5 stories or floors; distinguished by the appellation of the Snow Tower, in the western corner of the present fabric, which was afterwards carried round a pretty spacious court, forming an unequal pentagon, in which 6
other

other towers differing in magnitude and form, rose for the protection of the intervening buildings, which appear to have been but 2 stories in height. Two of these towers were for the security alone of the only gate placed in the western wall, occupying the whole space between them; the walls were 4 feet thick, built of run-lime, and the outside courses of freestone, regularly squared; the western wall was reared on the verge of the acclivity at first described, which rose however in such a gentle slope, as to afford space for the garden, which, though warm and finely sheltered, would in the present age, be accounted too small. The northern side was secured by the steep banks of the brook, and round the east and south, were deep artificial ditches, the whole fortification occupying nearly 3 Scots acres; besides a draw-well. There may be still traced from the interior of the fortress, a subterranean vaulted passage, of height sufficient for horses, opening in the bank, now much above the present bed of the brook, although it is believed, its channel was then on a level with the exterior opening of this covered way. In the middle of the eastern wall, the chappel may be still distinguished by the peculiar form of the window above the altar; consisting of 3 very long, and very narrow slits. Tradition reports, that the chappel was occupied as a magazine of forage, during the noted siege, by the forces of Edward I. in the year 1306; that when Robert I. and his wife and daughter, were understood to have made their escape, by means of the covered way to the county of Ross, the besiegers despaired of success, when a piece of red hot iron thrown through this window into the forage, occasioned such distraction by the conflagration, that the castle was won by surprise and storm.

Soon after the forfeiture of the Earl of Marre, for his friendship to the house of Stuart, in the year 1715, the cas-

tle with its whole domains, fell into the possession of a proprietor, who, residing elsewhere, let the adjoining lands to a tenant, who preferred low thatched cottages of his own rearing, to the lofty roofs of this royal palace, and the materials were partly carried off for other buildings, so that both the ravages of man and of time, have conjoined to accelerate its ruin.

The family of Fife, in the last generation, acquired the superiorities of the Earldom of Marre, by purchase from the crown. It is said, they still retain the privilege of holding meetings, and transacting business, with the vassals in the Snow Tower; it is however certain, this never was, and it is much more than probable, that it never will be, ascertained by actual practice.

Most of those who visit these ruins, make some reflections upon their ancient magnificence, compared with their present silent desolation. It would be more pleasant, and perhaps more useful, to compare the freedom, security, and comfort which the people now enjoy, notwithstanding all the clamours respecting the corruption and decay of the constitution, with what they experienced, during any period of the 600 years in which the castle stood in splendor and magnificence. It is certain, that during this long tract of time, in which even the Kings and Nobles lived in fear, and in comfortless insecurity; the condition of the inferior ranks of society was extremely miserable; while the minds of all were debased under the domination of oppressive priestcraft, and the gloomiest superstition; the fortunes, persons, and lives of the people, were at the uncontrolled disposal of their petty, yet arbitrary chiefs; and the people were continually harassed by robberies, murders, and predatory wars, among their rapacious and capricious lords. Their habitations in cleanness and accommodation, were not superior to the huts of the most
savage

savage tribes; their furniture, clothing, and victuals, were mean and wretched in the extreme.

But the civil liberty and the equal distribution of justice which they now enjoy, costly as these blessings are, by affording some degree of security, both to their persons and their substance, hath produced among them a satisfaction and elevation of mind, unfelt in former times; their spirits are neither depressed by the slavish dread of insolent tyrannical superiors, nor debased by the gloom of dismal superstition; the pure and gentle religion which they are now taught, enables them to support the natural ills of life, by their trust in a wise and good Providence, and by their hope of a happy eternity. Their houses are tight, commodious, and comfortably furnished; well lighted, and free from smoke, clean in summer, and warm in winter; and the dress of apprentice boys, at church and market, is superior to the finery of the young nobility of ancient times. By their frequent intercourse with the city of Aberdeen, and trafficking in cattle fairs, from the shores of the Moray Frith to the other side of the Grampian mountains, they have acquired acuteness, discretion, and polished manners, far superior to those of the same rank, in the best cultivated provinces of this great Empire.

Although the ancient times which have been mentioned, were far from being comfortable, yet the parish contains indications of a state of society in an earlier age, more unhappy still; a state in which it was necessary for the inhabitants to conceal themselves under ground, debarred from the free air, and the light of day. We are unable to guess at what æra of our history those subterranean abodes were necessary; or whether the necessity was occasioned by the weakness, or pusillanimousness of the people; or whether it arose from the dread of a foreign or domestic foe. Those habitations have only been found in one quarter of the parish, about a

mile north-east from the castle, in a very level moor of considerable extent, exhibiting no token of having ever produced wood of any kind. Their number is considerable; but not certainly ascertained; for the people who have lately settled as improvers on the moor, discover from time to time, one unobserved before. Their entrance commonly from the western end, is not larger than may be shut by many of the greater stones scattered over the moor. The inside of the largest yet seen, measures about 16 or 20 feet in length, and about 6 or 7 in breadth at the floor; the walls are about 4 feet high, untouched by the mason's hammer, and without mortar of any kind; approaching to each other gradually, from the foundation, so as to be covered at the level of the moor by flag-stones about 3 feet in length, above which the excavated earth has been carelessly accumulated; so as while the rain is thereby carried off, the external appearance is that only of a shapeless hillock, suggesting no idea of its contents.

These remotely ancient abodes, carry back our contemplations to a state of society, when the principles upon which the arch is constructed, were nearly, but not completely discovered; and by comparing the structure of these concealed abodes, with the most durable monuments of the wisdom of Egypt, the most venerable fanes of celebrated Asia, and the most elegant temples of polished Greece, there will be found reason to believe, that those principles undiscovered by the ingenuity of the most renowned nations, were first known among our own rude ancestors. But as Tacitus hath mentioned, (*Mor. Germ. C. 16.*) that such habitations were also common among the ancient savages of the Continent, we are not certain that the whole credit of discovering this important branch of architecture belongs to ourselves.

It

It might be thought an omission, not to mention a stone column on the same moor. It is nearly cylindrical, about 3 or 4 feet in circumference, and about 9 or 10 in height. It exhibits no mark of art, and no tradition remains concerning it.

The little green mount, the only burial ground in the parish, upon which also the church is built, has no doubt, given the parish its name; and it may be presumed, a church had been erected there, before the foundations of the castle were laid, and before the free stone quarries were opened, which afforded the materials for its walls; as the fabric of the present church is composed of common stone, collected from the surface of the moor, probably for building the first church the parish ever enjoyed. There are several of the pews, with the initials of the first owners, and dates more than a century ago. The ayle on the south side, containing the seats, no less modern, which the Earls of Marre, and their attendants occupied, is built over the vault in which the bodies of their dead were for many generations laid. Several skulls, and many of the bones remain unburied in the bottom of the vault, the hatchway entrance from the floor of the ayle being now imperfectly closed.

The embalmed body of a lady lay there in perfect preservation, till about the year 1746, when some gentlemen of the county, idle by the distractions of that period, carried off the body, for more minute inspection, than the accommodation about the church allowed. It was on that occasion dismembered, and a leg and thigh, it is said, were sent over to Rome.

It is supposed to have been the body either of the sister of King Robert Bruce, Christian the wife of Graitney, Earl of Marre, who added Kildrummy as her dower to the possessions

sessions of that family; or of Isabel Douglas, daughter of Margaret of Marre, who about the year 1400, between compulsion and inclination, gave her hand, with the castle and its whole domains, to Alexander Steuart, the natural son of the Earl of Buchan.

NUMBER

N U M B E R XVI.

PARISH OF BORROWSTOWNNESS.

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. Mr ROBERT RENNIE.

Name, Situation, Extent.

BORROWSTOWNNESS, derives its name from the small village of Borrowstown*. The parish is situated in the county and presbytery of Linlithgow, and in the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. The town stands about 3 miles north from the presbytery seat, and about 18 miles north-west from Edinburgh, the seat of the Synod.

Prior to the year 1634, Borrowstownness belonged to the parish of Kinneil. The inhabitants then becoming numerous, built a church, finding it inconvenient to travel nearly 2 miles to the Old Church at Kinneil, and petitioned the Parliament of Scotland, A. D. 1649, for a disjunction, and a separate minister. Parliament granted the prayer of the petition, and after several visitations, the presbytery of Linlithgow

* Borrowstown probably the town of the borough, as being in the vicinity of Linlithgow, the county town in the neighbourhood, and ness, which signifies a point of land projecting into the sea.

lithgow found it necessary, that Borrowstownness should be erected into a parish by itself, bounded on the south, by Graham's dyke; on the north, by the sea; on the east, by Thirlestone, and on the west, by the castle wall, commonly called "Capie's wall." In December 1669, the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton, obtained an act of the Scotch Parliament, declaring the church lately built within the town to be "the kirk of the hail barony of Kinrieth and Borrowstownness." From that period, the parishes have been united, and considered as one. The parish now is about 4 English miles in length, from east to west, and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in breadth, from south to north.

Nearly of a triangular form, it is bounded on the east and south, by the parishes of Carriden and Linlithgow; on the west and south, by the river Avon, which divides it from the parishes of Polmont and Muiravonside; and on the north, it is bounded by the Frith of Forth, reckoned 4 miles in breadth, directly opposite to the burgh of Culross.

Surface, Soil, Rent, Produce.—The parish comprehends more than 320 English acres, all properly divided and well inclosed, except about 126 acres in the neighbourhood of the town, which are let or feued for the conveniency of the inhabitants. The surface of the high ground or dry-field, which may contain 2713 acres, is uneven, rising gradually from the Frith to the south, and sloping gently on the west, to the banks of the Avon. It is let at about 24s per acre. The soil is deep and heavy, of a thick, loamy consistence. About 330 acres of the north-west part of the parish, are carse ground. It is of the same nature with the carse of Falkirk, and reckoned rather superior in quality. Prior to the year 1750, this land was let at a low rent. At that period, a new lease was granted, at 18s 4d per acre. In the year

1770,

1770, another lease was granted at L. 1 : 18 : 6d per acre. And in A. D. 1792, the last lease was granted at L. 2 : 10s per acre. The valued rent of the parish is L. 3559 : 8s Scots, and the real rent at present is reckoned about L. 3000, exclusive of the coal and salt. In general, the ground over all the parish is in good order, and capable of the highest improvement. A farmer employs 2 or 3 ploughs, with sometimes 2 horses, and sometimes 4 in a plough. No oxen are employed for the purposes of husbandry, and grain appears a greater object than pasturage. The average price of a good horse reared in the parish, and 5 years old, is L. 20. A good cow of the same age, is sold at L. 6. Beans, wheat, peas, barley, and oats, are sown in rotation. Beans, peas, and oats are sown in March and April; barley in April, and the beginning of May; wheat for the most part is sown in September and October. If the season is favourable, harvest begins in August, and ends in October. The crop is reaped by domestics, day-labourers, or servants hired for the purpose, and their wages vary according to contingent circumstances. Within these 20 years sown grass has been introduced into the parish, and pretty good crops of hay have been produced. Besides many clumps of young firs in a thriving state, there are upwards of 70 acres of natural wood in the vicinity of Kinneil-house.

Heritors.—The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor, and superior of the whole parish of Borrowstownness, except the farm of Muir-house, afterwards to be mentioned; it holds of the Crown by a charter from Charles II. His Grace the present Duke never resided in the parish. The house of Kinneil, an ancient seat of that noble family, is large and habitable. It is built on the top of a beautiful bank, about 50 feet above the level of the sea. The architecture seems ancient, though

not of a Gothic appearance. The main house fronts east, is 4 stories high, with two large turrets. Many of the rooms are neat, and in good order. Some of them are spacious, and the finest figures wrought in tapestry, are to be seen in perfect preservation. From the high story, you ascend by a cupola to a flat lead roof, which is surrounded by a parapet-wall, several feet high; and the spectator securely enjoys at once, an extensive, variegated, and grand prospect. At some distant period, a wing has been added to the north end of the house, containing some elegant apartments. The house is surrounded by two gardens, by large inclosures, and by aged planting, which forms beautiful natural vistas; and though now uninhabited, in other times it was the residence of Nobility, and the retreat of Kings.

Population.—In Dr Webster's report, A. D. 1755, the parish contained 2668 souls.

Present population *.	{ Town	2613 }	3178
	{ Country	565 }	
Population, A. D. 1755,	-	-	2668
- - -	-	-	—
Increase,	-	-	510

Abstract

* The present minister having been ordained only a few weeks before this account was called for, could not ascertain the population of the parish with perfect accuracy.

*Abstract of Baptisms, Deaths, and Marriages, for Seven Years
preceding 1794.*

Baptisms.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1787	60	69	129
1788	61	47	108
1789	68	51	119
1790	54	51	105
1791	47	39	86
1792	42	54	96
1793	38	45	83
	370	356	726
		Average	103 $\frac{5}{7}$

Deaths.

Years.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1787	32	38	70
—88	28	27	55
—89	47	36	83
—90	32	25	57
—91	22	33	55
—92	38	37	75
—93	28	33	61
	227	229	456
		Average	65 $\frac{1}{7}$

Marriages.

1787	37
—88	28
—89	21
—90	27
—91	23
—92	25
—93	19
	180
	Average 25 $\frac{5}{7}$

	Average.
Baptisms for 7 years, from 1752 to 1759,—617.—	87 $\frac{3}{7}$,
Deaths, - - - - -	505.—72 $\frac{1}{7}$,
Marriages, - - - - -	128.—18 $\frac{2}{7}$,
Twins born in the parish for 10 years, from 1784, 6 times.	

In the parish, there is one minister of the Established Church, one preacher, three students of divinity, and 293 dissenters, including all sectaries and their children*. The Antiburghers only have a place for public worship; but no minister. The Burghers were connected with a congregation in Linlithgow.

Town.—Borrowstownness is a Burgh of Barony, governed by a baillie appointed by the Duke of Hamilton. No certain information can be obtained when it was built, or when it was erected into a Burgh of Regality; but it was made a Burgh of Barony, when the Jurisdiction Act was repealed in 1748†. It is situated on the north-east corner of the parish, almost on a level with the sea. At high-water, the tide washes the north side of the town. The two principal streets are narrow, and running from west to east, about 300 yards, terminate in one, which is continued about 350 yards farther. The houses, bearing the marks of antiquity, are low and crowded; but for the most part, clean and commodious. The smoke from the coal-works, was lately a great nuisance. The town involved continually in a cloud, the houses were blackened with soot, the air impregnated with vapour, and strangers were struck with the pandemonian appearance of the

* Burghers 153, Antiburghers 103, Cameronians 37.

† Borrowstownness is a regular post town.

the place. But these nuisances being now removed from the immediate vicinity, to a considerable distance, and more attention paid to cleaning the streets, the air is more pure and salubrious, and the town assumes a very different aspect. Still, indeed, the smoke from the Grange coal-works on the east, the Bonefs salt-pans on the west, and the dust excited by the carts carrying coals to the quays for exportation, occasionally incommode the inhabitants.

An elegant building, said to be an exact model of Inveraray house, was built at the head of the harbour, about 20 years ago, by the Duke of Hamilton. The ground floor was intended for a Prison, the second for a Court-room, and the attic story, for a School. But, the original intention not having been carried into execution, this fine building is going to ruin. Any rooms in repair, are employed as granaries. If the original design were executed, the house would be highly useful and ornamental to the place.

Water is sometimes scarce in summer, the coal-mines having diverted all the springs from their former channels. It is to be found, however, at a small distance from the town, in great abundance, and of an excellent quality, fit for every domestic purpose. It is proposed to bring it to the town by pipes, for the benefit of the inhabitants. Crowded as the houses may appear to a stranger, no bad consequences are felt. No endemical diseases prevail. The epidemics, such as the small-pox, measles, chincough, &c. are not more frequent than in other places. Dysenteries are very rare; and fevers, when they do prevail, are in general of a low, nervous class. It has been observed, that health is enjoyed in a greater degree about Borrowstownness, than in many other towns of its size and population. This is easily accounted for. The shore is washed by the Forth, twice every 24 hours, when, from the influx and reflux of the river, a great evaporation

poration of vegetable effluvia must impregnate the atmosphere; which, combined with the vapours from the salt-pans in the immediate neighbourhood, will correct any septic quality in the air. The walks about the town, are romantic and inviting; the walks on the quays, and on the west beach, are, at all times, dry and pleasant, much fitted to promote health and longevity. But here, as in many other places specified in the Statistical Account of Scotland, tippling houses are too numerous. It may be seriously regretted, by the friends of religion and virtue, that so many people are licensed to vend ardent spirits in every town and village. Such places ensnare the innocent, become the haunts of the idle and dissipated, and ruin annually the health and morals of thousands of mankind. Perhaps, if the malt-tax were abolished, and an adequate additional tax laid upon British spirits, as in the days of our fathers, malt-liquor would be produced, to nourish and strengthen, instead of whisky, which wastes and enfeebles the constitution: Or, were Justices of the Peace to limit the number of licences issued, by apportioning them to the population of each place, and by granting them to persons of a respectable character, a multitude of grievances would be redressed, to which the innocent spouse, and the helpless infant are daily exposed.

“ O’ a’ the ills poor Caledonia

“ E’er yet preed, or e’er will taste,

“ Brew’d in hell’s black Pandemonia,

“ Whisky’s ill, will skaith her maist *.”

* Scotland’s Skaith, a little poem of real merit.

A List of the Mechanics in the town of Borrowstownness, exclusive of Journeymen and Apprentices.

Bakers	-	-	11	Masons and flaters	3		
Barbers	-	-	5	Tailors	-	-	10
Blacksmiths	-	-	7	Shoemakers	-	-	15
Butchers	-	-	3	Weavers	-	-	6
Clock and watch-makers			2	Joiners, glaziers, cart-			
Coopers	-	-	3	wrights, &c.	-	-	15

There is 1 surgeon, 1 writer, 1 brewery in the town, and 1 distillery in the parish.

Wages, and Prices of Provisions.

Average wages at present.	20 years ago.
A man-servant per an. L. 10 and victuals,	L. 6.
A maid-servant per an. L. 3	L. 1 : 10.
A labourer per day, 1s 3d, without victuals,	1s.

Average prices of provisions, per Dutch lib.

The present year,	20 years ago.
At Whitsunday,	At Martinmas.
Beef, from 3d to 4d,	from 2d $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2d $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton, 5d to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d,	2d $\frac{1}{4}$ to 2d $\frac{1}{2}$
Veal, 5d to 3d,	2d to 2d $\frac{1}{2}$
Lamb, 5d to 3d,	8d to 9d per quarter.
Pork, 4d,	
Poultry, 3s and 3s 6d per pair,	1s 6d per pair.
Eggs, 4d to 7d per dozen,	2d per dozen.
Butter, 9d or 11d per lib. Tron wt.	5d or 6d per lib. Tron wt.
Cheese, 3d or 3d $\frac{1}{2}$ per lib. do.	2d per lib. do.
Meal, 1s or 1s 2d per peck,	7d or 8d per peck.

Harbour.—It does not appear by any record extant, when the present harbour was begun. Very probably about the beginning

beginning of this century, the west head or pier, had been so far carried out. Before that period, it is said, vessels were loaded and unloaded at low water, by means of a causeway, run out into the mud. The east head was begun in the memory of old people yet alive; and had not been built above one third of its present length, when an increase of trade occasioned an application to parliament, for an impost of two pennies Scots on the pint of ale and beer brought into, or brewed in the town, for repairing and enlarging the harbour. This was obtained in 1744, for 25 years, and was renewed for 25 years longer, in 1767, and extended over the parish; and again, in 1794, continued for 21 years, with the addition of an anchorage duty of $1d\frac{1}{2}$ per ton, on every ship entering the harbour. These duties, are under the management of 15 Trustees, elected from the merchants and ship-masters, who have been enabled, from time to time, to make great improvements on the harbour. One of great importance, a basin for cleaning the harbour, was executed about 30 years ago, by the late Robert M'Kell, Engineer. A double wall, moated in the heart, was run across between the two piers, inclosing about one fourth of the harbour, on the land side, and having 4 sluices. During spring tides, these sluices are regularly opened, and shut at full sea, when a great body of water is retained. At low water, the sluices are opened; emptying the basin with so rapid a current, that in the course of a few years from the erection, a great increase to the depth of water in the harbour, was made, and continues to be maintained at a very small expence. This basin-wall, being of similar breadth with the two piers, has given great accommodation to trade; and from it also, a middle pier has been built, parallel to the other two. The addition just now finished of 160 feet to the east pier, not only gives more room for shipping, but closes in the harbour so completely, from
I the

the north and easterly storms, to which it had been much exposed, that at present it may be fairly considered as one of the safest harbours in North Britain, and also one of the easiest access. The depth of the harbour in spring-tides, is from 16 to 18 feet. The piers, basin, and harbour may include about 2 English acres. It is proposed, as soon as circumstances will allow, to have a dry-dock, which can be conveniently situated on one side of the basin, and will be another material improvement.

Ship-building and Ships.—At Borrowstownness, ship building has been carried on pretty extensively for 40 years. There are 2 builders at present, of considerable eminence in their profession, who employ from 30 to 40 men constantly; and build vessels from 40 to 350 tons burden. One ship is now building for a Company at Greenock, of nearly 400 tons.

The shipping belonging to the town, are at present 25 sail; whereof 17 are brigantines, of 70 to 170 tons per register; and 8 sail are sloops, from 20 to 70 tons per register; employing about 170 men and boys. Of the brigantines, 6 are under contract to sail regularly once every 14 days, to and from London. They are all fine vessels, from 147 to 167 tons per register. The remaining 11 brigantines, and 1 of the sloops, also a good vessel, are chiefly engaged in the Baltic trade. The other 7 sloops, are for the canal and coasting. The shipping of the port, including all the creeks, are said to be nearly 10,000 tons per register; and those of Borrowstownness, make about one fourth of the whole.

Trade.—Several branches of commercial and mechanical industry are carried on at Borrowstownness. A pottery was begun on a small scale in the year 1784. Within these 3

years, it has been carried on upon a much more extensive plan. At present, it employs nearly 40 persons; including men, boys, and girls. The clay for the stone-ware is imported from Devonshire. The clay for the earthen-ware is found in the parish. Cream-coloured, and white stone-ware, plain and painted, and brown earthen-ware, are the articles principally manufactured. A manufacture of soap belonging to a company in the town, is carried on to a considerable extent. It employs 6 men, and pays annually to Government, about L. 3000 sterling. Whale-fishing has been often and long attempted; but without success. It is now entirely given up. Herring-fishery was very successful in the Frith last season*. But as it is a new speculation in the place, nothing certain can be said on the subject. Small quantities of flounders and whittings are taken during stream-tides, in the run of Avon-water, west of the harbour, and mostly by the coalliers who use hand-nets. Some likewise are taken in cruives. It has long been thought, that this fishing might turn out to much more account, were it followed with attention and skill, as good haddocks have frequently been caught in the neighbourhood.

Many of the women in this town, and the country around, earn a comfortable subsistence by spinning silk, the waste of Spitalfield's manufacture, sent by sea from London to agents here, who return the yarn to be manufactured into stockings, epaulets, &c.

Coal and salt are the principal exports of the place, and the imports are grain, timber, tallow, hemp, flax, and flax-seed,

* Those who are intelligent on the subject of this fishery, remark, that according to the result of the best observation, the herrings after having set into the Frith last year, (1794,—95,) in such abundance, may be expected to return in many future years.

seed, with other Baltic and Dutch goods. The exportation of coal to Holland, had become very early a considerable branch of trade here; and Borrowstownness, for the first 50 or 60 years of this century, was a great mart for Dutch goods of all kinds, particularly flax, flax-seed, and old iron. But as the manufactures of this country advanced, so as to increase the demand for Dutch flax, the traders and manufacturers in other places, found their way to a direct importation into their own ports, and though there are still two considerable manufactories for dressing flax here, and large quantities imported, both for dressing and selling rough, yet this branch has greatly decreased in comparison with what it once was; and the Baltic trade now chiefly consists in the articles formerly mentioned.

The commerce of this town with the Baltic, as well as that of Leith, Grangemouth, and some other places on the east coast, was greatly enlarged during the war with America. That country had been in use to supply Britain before the war, with large quantities of timber, iron, tar, pearl and pot-ashes. The American trade being suspended by the war, not only all these articles were imported from the Baltic to this east coast, and by the merchants on this side of the island; but those of the west, to save the risk of capture in a circuitous voyage round the highlands, made their importation of those goods into the Frith of Forth, to be carried from Boness and Grangemouth, through the great canal, to Glasgow. Great quantities of tallow and hemp, were also brought over during this period. The trade then enjoyed by this and other ports in the neighbourhood, was happily improved, to furnish the means of an extended commerce for several years after the peace was concluded, A. D. 1783.

It is only since 1793, the commencement of the present French war, that the trade of this town has decreased, in

common with the commerce of other ports trading to the Baltic ; and there is every reason to hope for a revival, when the blessing of peace shall be restored ; an event earnestly to be desired by all the friends of human kind.

The corn-trade, both British and foreign, is very considerable here. In 3 large granaries, and in some smaller ones, there is very good accommodation for above 15,000 bolls.

Grangemouth, South Queensferry, and North Queensferry, St David's, Inverkeithing, Lime-kilns, Torry, and Culrofs, are united to the Custom-house of Borrowstownness ; but the annual revenue received, excluding these creeks, will, on an average, amount to about L. 4000. The salt-duty amounts to about L. 3000 per annum. The business of the Custom-house employs about 44 officers.

Coal and Salt.—Coal is said to have been wrought in this parish above 500 years ago, and has been continued more or less since that period. The depth of the pits now in use is about 42 fathoms. The seam of coal, is from 10 to 12 feet in thickness, and is nearly exhausted. There are various seams, some of them of a superior, and others of a very inferior quality. All of them have been wrought in different places, and at different times, to a great extent, particularly in and about Boness. On the south east, and on the west, there is still a vast extent of unwrought coal. It is proposed, to sink a pit soon on the west of the town. The depth, to the principal seam in this quarter, may be about 70 fathoms ; but there are several other seams at a much less depth. Various methods have been adopted, with regard to the manner of working the coal ; but in general, what is called stoop and throw, has been found the most eligible. The average quantity of coal raised in 12 months, for some time past, may be about 44,000 tons. A considerable part of the great coal has
been

been exported, at 7s 9d per ton. The remainder has been disposed of in the coasting trade, and in the adjacent country. A great many of the chew-coals, are carried by the contract shipping to the London market, at 6s per ton. The greatest part of the small coal is consumed by the salt-works, which consist of 16 pans, and employ about 30 salters and labourers. The annual quantity of salt made, may be about 37,000 bushels, which is partly disposed of in the coasting trade; but chiefly, for the supply of the country to the south and west of Borrowstownness. It is sold at 3s 6d per bushel, including duty. But upon the duty, there is a draw-back of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, allowed by the Custom-house to the purchaser. It is believed, that the salt-works were erected here a considerable time before coal-pits were opened; and that in place of coal, wood was applied as fuel. Hence, small coal retains the name of pan-wood.—The number of colliers, coal-bearers, labourers, carters, &c. employed about the coallery, may be nearly 250.

Ecclesiastical State, &c.—The present church of Borrowstownness, is a good plain edifice. When the parishes were first united* in the year 1669, the Duke of Hamilton added a large aisle for himself and his tenants. In this form, the church continued till about 20 years ago, when, pursuant to an agreement between the town and the Duke's Commissioners, the aisle was taken down, and the church nearly rebuilt. The two front-corners were extended as far as the aisle had gone; and the area within the walls, is now an oblong figure of 69 feet, by 48. The walls and ceiling are handsomely

* It was formerly mentioned, that Bo-ness is an united parish. A little west from Kinniel-house, the ruins of the old church and burying-ground of Kinniel, are still to be seen.

handsomely plaistered and ornamented ; but the galleries are heavy and ill-constructed. When Bo-nefs was first detached from Kinniel, the annual interest of the stock, provided by the inhabitants for the minister's stipend, did not amount to 800 merks Scots. An Act of Parliament was then obtained by petition, appointing the inhabitants to be assessed, to make up the sum ; and representatives were to be chosen annually, by common consent of the town and Kirk-Session, to fix and levy the tax. During the first century after the separation from Kinniel, the annual assessment authorised by Parliament for making up the 800 merks of town-stipend, was often levied ; but for these 40 or 50 years past, there has been little or no occasion for any such contribution. The original mortgaged stock had been early invested in land, 2 miles south of the town ; and it is well known, how much the value of this kind of property has risen throughout the island within these 50 years. The land which, during the former lease, yielded only about L. 20 per annum, now lets for L. 50 ; and the tenant having inclosed the whole, as he was bound to do by the terms of his lease, it is probable, that the rent will be more than doubled at the expiration of the present lease *. To the 800 merks Scots given by the town, the Act of Parliament obtained by the Duke and Dukes of Hamilton, December 1669, appointed the old stipend of Kinniel to be added, and the whole, to be the constant stipend of the minister, serving the cure of the united parishes,—ordering also, that a manse and glebe should be provided by the Duke and Dukes, in place of the old manse and glebe of Kinniel. The present stipend in Sterling money, valuing 3 chalders payable in victual, at the legal

* The fund being already more than equal to the payment of the stipend, and ordinary repairs on the church and church-yard dykes, the managers have in contemplation, some very essential improvements upon the avenues around the church, and upon its internal arrangements.

gal conversion of L. 100 Scots the chalder, amounts to L. 83:6:8d; besides coals, a glebe, consisting of 4 arable acres, and 2 of very good pasture; also house-rent, in lieu of a manse, which has not yet been provided by the family of Hamilton. The Duke is also at the expence of Communion-elements. His Grace is undoubted patron of the parish.

There are 5 schools in the town and parish, well attended. The Parochial schoolmaster, commonly employs an assistant, and has generally from 80 to 90 scholars. He has a salary of 200 merks Scots, (L. 11:2:2 $\frac{2}{3}$,) besides the perquisites of his office as Session-clerk; and the sums paid for education at his school, which are as follows,

English and Writing by the quarter,	L. 0	2	6
Latin or French, by ditto.	0	5	0
Arithmetic and other branches of Mathematics,	0	3	6
Navigation or Book-keeping, per course,	1	1	0

The poor in the parish, are pretty numerous. The funds for their support, are the following,

Weekly collections at the Church-door, amounting annually to about,	-	-	L. 82	0	0
Rent of landed property,	-	-	16	12	6
Interest of a bond and a late Legacy,	-	-	38	11	2
Mort-cloth dues *, annually about †	-	-	2	5	0
			L. 139	8	8

The

* At the burials of the poor people, a custom, almost obsolete in other parts of Scotland, is continued here. The beadle perambulates the streets with a bell, and intimates the death of the individual in the following language: "All brethren and sisters, I let ye to wit, there is a brother (or sister) departed, at the pleasure of the Almighty, (here he lifts his hat,) called ——. All those that come to the burial, come at — o'clock. The corpse is at ——" He also walks before the corpse to the church-yard, ringing his bell.

† The annual amount of mort-cloth dues at the disposal of the Session is trifling, as the people in the country part of the parish, and the different corporations

The pensioners who receive regular supply at present, are in number 36. Occasional supplies, upon proper recommendation, are often appointed to such persons as are reduced to temporary distress. Upon any pressing emergency, the liberality of the opulent part of the inhabitants, is exemplary. During the late severe winter, near L. 60 sterling were collected, and distributed in the most judicious manner, by a committee of gentlemen in the town. Begging is still common; but the paupers who go about from house to house, are, for the most part, from other parishes.

Roads and Milns.—Besides several cross-roads, two public roads run through the parish; one from Borrowstownness, leading south to Linlithgow, and the Cleugh iron-works, in pretty good order, upon which there are several toll-bars; another running east and west, (by the water side,) frequented by travellers from Falkirk and Queensferry. On the river Avon, which skirts the parish on the south and west, there are 5 milns, the property of the Duke of Hamilton. To the 2 corn-milns, all the barony of Kinniel are thirled with their oats, and pay as dues the 17th part or peck. Farmers from other parishes, pay only the half of this multure. There are 2 flour-milns, which grind flour for Falkirk, Borrowstownness, &c. The fifth miln was built for the purpose of grinding malt, for the brewers in Borrowstownness; but is employed at present, in grinding flint for the pottery formerly mentioned. The river Avon is a fine stream, well fitted for the purposes of machinery. Falls of considerable height may found; and there is plenty of water, unless when the drought of summer is uncommonly severe. The water is also perfectly

corporations in the town, such as the sailors and maltmen, keep one, and receive the emoluments.

fectly pure, except when the torrents rush impetuous from the hills, after heavy rains.

Minerals and Antiquities.—Besides coal already mentioned, iron-stone is dug from a bank in the neighbourhood of Borrowstownness, and is said to abound in other parts of the parish. Quarries of excellent granite and free-stone, are also wrought on the south and west of the town. Lime-stone is to be found on the west end of the parish. A draw-kiln was erected about 20 years ago, and the work carried on to a considerable extent; but the quantity and quality of the lime not answering expectation, it has been discontinued.

The Roman wall between Forth and Clyde, well known in the History of Scotland, runs through the high grounds, the whole length of the parish. It is still distinctly visible on the east bank of the Avon. At Inver-avon the ruins of a Roman tower still remain. It has been built of common free-stone, and stands in a very conspicuous place. It appears from the foundation, that the building must have been pretty extensive; and were the rubbish cleared away, perhaps farther information on the subject might be obtained for the antiquarian. In a window of the adjacent farm-house, there is a stone with several hieroglyphic characters, which, although much venerated for their antiquity, are not understood.

Prospects.—From the brow of the hill, behind the town of Borrowstownness, the ascent is gradual to the south, for more than a mile and a half; and the prospect still varying and extending, is inexpressibly grand and beautiful. On the east, the horizon is boundless, the prospect reaching the Pentland-hills, Arthur's-seat, Edinburgh castle, and the German ocean. On

the north-west, are seen a number of gentlemen's seats, and plantations around them, the whole range of Ochil-hills, the celebrated Grampian mountains, Campsie hills, and the towering top of Benlomond. This prospect, which includes also a view of the towns on the opposite coast, must charm the spectator of taste, and afford high entertainment to all who take pleasure in contemplating the sublime and variegated works of nature and art. From the high grounds in a clear day, the eye may take a pleasing range over part of 11 counties, in cultivation equal, if not superior, to any in Scotland.

Miscellaneous Observations.—When the navigation by the canal between Forth and Clyde was first projected, it was the general opinion, that from the advantageous situation of this town and its harbour, the east termination should have been here, and not at Grange-burn. It would serve no good purpose at present, to point out the causes which combined to place the termination otherwise. Suffice it to say, the public would, in all probability, have been much better accommodated, and Bo-nefs would have increased ten fold. To prevent this town from suffering the disadvantages apprehended from the termination of the canal at Grange-burn, a subscription was opened in the year 1782, on an estimate for a canal of communication from the harbour of Borrowstownness to Grangemouth, supposed to cost about L. 12,000, and subscriptions for L. 10,000 were procured. The canal was cut from Avon-water eastward, within a mile of the town, and an aqueduct bridge of stone built for crossing the Avon. The expence, however, of this work, and that of procuring two Acts of Parliament, together with salaries and heavy incidental charges, had, in 1789, exhausted half the subscription. Doubts were then entertained, whether the navigation could be properly executed for the estimate, as the works

next

next the town were foreseen to be very expensive. It was judged prudent to have a new survey by that eminent engineer, Mr Robert Whitworth; who reported, "That to complete the canal properly, L. 17,000 would be wanted." By this time, not L. 4000 good money remained, and the work was relinquished, till new funds should be raised; which unfortunately have never yet been procured, and when they shall be obtained, is at present uncertain. The return of peace, with a reviving commerce, may perhaps encourage former subscribers, or animate new ones, to finish a work of public utility; and which would be of so much local advantage to this town and the adjacent country.

It is highly probable, that all the low ground in the parish, was formerly part of the bed of the river Forth. This opinion easily gains assent, because immediately at the bottom of the bank, far from the shore, and far above the level of the present spring-tides, shells, particularly oyster-shells, are to be seen in several places, and in great quantities. At low-water, above 2000 acres opposite to the parish are left dry. It is said, that a Dutch company offered, for a lease of 99 years, to fence off the sea from these acres with a dyke, to prepare them for the purposes of agriculture, which would have been a vast accession to the carse grounds of the parish. But the project failed, and a large extent of ground remains useless, shewing its face twice every 24 hours, to reproach the fastidiousness and indolence of mankind.

It appears, as far as the writer of this account has had an opportunity to learn, that the natives of the town and parish of Bo-ness, are fond of a sea-faring life. Many able-bodied seamen from this place, are at present in his Majesty's service; and are distinguished for their sobriety, courage, and loyalty. Adventurers from the place, are also to be found in the most distant parts of the globe.—The inhabitants of the town are

in general sober and industrious, and support a respectable character. The inferior ranks are quiet and regular; the superior ranks well-bred, hospitable, and public-spirited. Though indulgence over the glass, a characteristic of the present age, is too frequent, intemperance or rioting is seldom to be seen on the streets. Religion, it must be regretted, is too much neglected; yet the sabbath-day is decently observed, and divine worship attended by all, except by those who from ignorance, or from habits of irregularity, are insensible to the solid comforts and satisfaction which arise from a life of religion and virtue.

NUMBER

N U M B E R XVII.

PARISHES OF FOSSAWAY & TULLIEBOLE.

(COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS.)

By the Rev. Mr GRAHAM.

Origin of the Names of Fossaway and Tulliebole.

THE Scots were anciently a nation of warriors; and when not engaged against the common enemy, the chieftains often turned their arms against one another. When at peace, their time was employed in hunting, and they naturally distinguished their hunting grounds, by the various sorts of game with which they abounded. Hence the name of Fossaway, or in the original Gaelic, Fasach Fheidh, pronounced Fasach-hay, is literally "the desert of deer," to distinguish it from the range of mountains to the westward, called in the original, Mueard, or "the height where the bears resort-
"ed." In the Duke of Atholl's charter, it is written Fossowhey, which is very near the original orthography. The desert of deer, corresponds with the description of Ossian. He makes Fingal say to Swaran, "The desert is enough for me with all
"its deer and woods."

Tulliebole literally signifies the Poet's hill: For it is well understood, that every chief had his own bard. By him the
poems

poems concerning the ancestors of the family, were handed down to posterity, and were repeated to the whole clan on solemn occasions. Tulliebole, therefore, seems to have been the residence, at a very early period, of some independent chief, in the same manner that Tullibardine, or the hill of the bards, was the seat of the chieftain of the Murrays.

Formerly Fossaway and Tulliebole were two separate parishes, and each had its own pastor and church. The annexation, it is said, took place sometime about the year 1614. In the Advocates Library, there is an ancient manuscript, which is entitled, "Register of Assignations for the Ministers' Stipends, for the year 1574." In this manuscript, the stipends of the readers of the two parishes, are separately stated thus. "John Henderson, reader at Tulliebole, his stipend, L. 16, with the kirk-land, to be paid out of the third of the abbacy of Culrofs," &c. And, "Mr Adam Marshall, reader at Fossoquhy, his stipend, L. 26: 14: 4, paid thereof, out of the third of the abbacy of Cowpar, by the tacksmen or parishioners of Fossoquhy, as the reader shall choose."

Fossaway lies in the county of Perth, Tulliebole in Kinross-shire, and both are within the bounds of the presbytery of Auchterarder, and the Synod of Perth and Stirling. In Keith's Catalogue of the Scots Bishops, there is an Alphabetical Table of all the Parishes in Scotland, with the names of the Shire, Diocese, Presbytery, and Commissariat, in which each of them is situated; in which Fossaway is thus stated, 1688.

<i>Parishes.</i>	<i>Shires.</i>	<i>Diocese.</i>	<i>Presbytery.</i>	<i>Commissariat.</i>
Fossaway, whereto Tulliebole annexed. }	Perth.	Dumblane.	Auchterarder.	Dumblane.

This is evidence, that both parishes were at an early period in the Diocese of Dumblane. After the annexation down to the year 1729, the two places of worship, the one at Fossaway,

way, and the other at Tulliebole, were still retained, and the minister who served the cure, preached two sabbaths at Foffaway, and the third at Tulliebole, regularly, and his house was at Foffaway. In that year, both the old churches were thrown down, the manse and glebe at Foffaway were sold; the present glebe and church-yard, which are situated in the parish of Tulliebole, were purchased; and a new church and manse were built, in a situation more central to both parishes, and more convenient for the incumbent.

Ministers Names on Record.—The first found on the Session Register (1609), is Mr Laurence Mercer. It appears that he was alive in the year 1634. From that period, there is a deficiency in the register. The next mentioned is Mr Alexander Ireland, in the year 1661. He was alive, in 1687. Then the register is again deficient. It cannot therefore be ascertained, in what years these clergymen were ordained, or when they died. It is evident, however, that they were both of the Episcopal church, belonged to the Diocese of Dunblane, were strict observers of church discipline, and were exceedingly attentive to every part of their Parochial duty. Sessional business is recorded at considerable length; public worship is mentioned as regularly performed, and the collections for the poor, which were made every sabbath-day, are distinctly marked. During their incumbencies, the parish was seldom without divine service on the Lord's day; almost never without having a reason assigned in the record; such as, that the minister was assisting his brethren, or was unable to officiate. With regard to Mr Ireland, besides such reasons as these, there are other four mentioned somewhat singular. It is said in the register,

“No sermon; because the minister was at the consecration
“in Edinburgh.”

“No

“ No sermon ; because the minister was called to Dum-
 “ blane to wait upon the bishop.”

“ No sermon ; because the minister was under the necessity
 “ of attending Lord Rollo’s burial at Dunning.”

“ No sermon ; because the minister was in the Stormont
 “ seeing his aged father, who was labouring under great
 “ distress.”

These avocations happened at different times, betwixt the year 1661, and the year 1687. There is a deficiency in the register, from 1687, to 1691 ; but from that period, down to the present day, the records are compleat, containing every parochial transaction, relative to church affairs. Five clergymen are mentioned as succeeding one another, whose names follow.

Mr William Spence, admitted 21st September 1691 ; died 23d March 1715. Mr Alexander Barton, ordained 23d April 1712 ; died 14th June 1716. Mr Barton, was ordained assistant and successor to Mr Spence, 3 years before his death, and did not survive him 15 months. Mr Andrew Ure, admitted 25th of April 1717 ; died 7th April 1742. To him succeeded Mr John Storer, ordained 25th August 1743 ; died 8th June 1778. All those ministers are remembered by some of the parishioners, who are still alive ; and their memory is still held in great respect.

Patron.—In the settlements of all the incumbents which have been mentioned, no patron appeared. They were elected by the heritors, elders, and heads of families. At the last vacancy, it was doubtful to whom the right of patronage belonged. It was claimed by the crown, and by George Graham, Esq. of Kinross. There were of consequence two presentees. The right of patronage was afterwards determined by the Court of Session ; and was found to be vested

in Mr Graham, by a special grant from the crown. The present incumbent was ordained on Mr Graham's presentation, 11th of May 1780.

Church, Manse, Glebe and Stipend.—The church and manse, as formerly mentioned, were built in their present situation, in 1729. The church is neither commodious, nor in good repair, although it has received frequent reparations since it was built. The manse and office-houses were rebuilt in the year 1781, and are neat and convenient enough; but not so sufficiently executed, as might have been expected from the sum of money expended on them. Heritors, when they are building churches or manses, ought to endeavour to have them, at least, substantially finished. This would in the end, save them a good deal of expence. One would imagine, that a manse, which costs L. 300, might be so built, as to stand at least a century. This, however, was not the case with the former one at Fossaway, which was thrown down in its 51st year, by consent of the heritors, who were wearied out in repairing it. Owing to the peculiar situation of this country, the greater part of the houses stand nearly east and west; and as the most violent weather, and greatest hurricanes come from the west, it is found to be a very hard task to make the west gabel proof against the rain. Particular attention should be given to this circumstance, in every house built in this part of the country.

The glebe now occupied by the incumbent, is about 10 Scotch acres. It was formerly a muir, and is a very poor soil. In the year 1729, it was purchased for L. 29:8s ster. Its soil is a mixture of moss and gravel, few inches deep in many places; and lies partly on a bed of moss, but mostly on a bed of very fine sand.

The stipend of the parish consisted of 40 bolls; two thirds meal, and one third bear; and L. 56:13:4d ster. in money.

On a process, at the instance of the present minister, the Court has lately granted an augmentation, consisting of 43 bolls, 3 pecks, 1 lippie, 2 thirds in meal, and 1 third in bear, making the present stipend to consist of 83 bolls, 3 pecks, and 1 lippie, 2 thirds in meal, and 1 third in barley, and L. 56 : 13 : 4d in money.

Situation and Extent.—Fossaway consists of two branches, entirely separated from each other by Tulliebole, which intervenes, having one of those branches on the northern, and the other on the southern side of it. As the church of Fossaway stood on the northern branch, those families, who dwelt on the southern, were under the necessity of passing either through Tulliebole, or the parish of Muckart, before they could come to the place of worship. This circumstance seems first to have led to the junction of the two parishes, and then to the removal of the church and manse, from their former situation, to the place where they now stand, which is much more convenient and central. The northern branch of Fossaway, extends along the Ochil hills, from east to west, and is about 6 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. Tulliebole lies on the lower ground, extending from the bottom of the Ochil hills on the north, towards the Cliefh hills on the south; and from the Crook of Dovan on the west, to about half way to Kinross on the east. Its southern side juts out both to the east and west, nearly an English mile farther than its northern side. Cutting off these two corners, the remaining space will be about 3 miles square. To the southern side of the parish of Tulliebole, is joined the southern branch of Fossaway, running in a south-west direction, for nearly 8 miles in length, and at an average, 2 and a half in breadth. The two parishes taken together, do not form a regular figure; but they are bounded in the following manner;

ner; on the east, by the parishes of Orwell and Kinross; on the south, by Cliesh and Saline; on the west, by Clackmannan, Dollar, Muckart, and Glen-dovan; and on the north, by the parish of Dunning.

A map of the parish of Fossaway, as forming a part of the county of Perth, has been drawn by Mr Stobie, factor to the Duke of Atholl; and a map of Tulliebole, in conjunction with the county of Kinross, by Mr John Bell, land-surveyor at Edinburgh. Both these maps are executed with accuracy, in as far as they regard the two parishes; but it is not known to the writer of this account, if they have ascertained the number of acres contained in them. Though both the maps are executed with precision, they differ from the description which is given here. The reason is this, above a century ago, the barony of Carnboe, in the northern part of the parish of Fossaway, was, by an Act of Parliament, disjoined from the county of Perth, and annexed to the county of Kinross. It is still considered, as belonging to the parish of Fossaway; but is of course, omitted in the map of the county of Perth, and comprehended in Mr Bell's map of Kinross-shire.

By the Act of Parliament lately passed for raising men for his Majesty's Navy out of every county, the whole of the parish of Fossaway is joined with the county of Kinross. This naturally leads to the following observation; that it would be more convenient for Fossaway, if it were for ever annexed to Kinross. The distance from Kinross, is only 6 miles of fine road; the distance from Perth, is 21 miles over the Ochil hills. To be obliged to go to Perth for all the business which must be transacted there, is attended with a very considerable degree both of trouble and expence. There is not a residing Justice of the Peace in the whole parish of Fossaway. If it were united to Kinross-shire, it would be

equally in the vicinity of the county courts, and of the Justices of the Peace.

Climate, Surface, Soil and Air.—The lands in both parishes are in a high situation; the frost begins sooner, the snow falls earlier, and both continue a longer time than in most of the neighbouring parishes. Except on the banks of the river Doan, or at the bottom of the hills, where the effect of the sun is considerable, the northern branch of Fossaway is the coldest district. It is one continued range of hills. The hills are of various heights, from 600, perhaps to 1100 feet perpendicular above the level of the sea; yet they afford excellent pasture, both for sheep and black-cattle. Some of the hills have moss and heath; but the greatest part of them is covered with grass, to the very summit. Tulliebole, and the southern branch of Fossaway, lying lower, are warmer. On these parts, there are some moss, some marshy ground, and some little hills; but by far the greatest part is arable land. The soil is various; some gravelly; some clay; some silty; some loam; and all these soils are capable of considerable improvement. Tulliebole, although in appearance it resembles a plain country, when compared with the hills on the north and south; yet contains the highest grounds of any parish in the plain, between Stirling and Kinross. Here the springs of water divide themselves, some running west towards Stirling, others east towards Kinross. In a dry summer, there are more frequently flying showers here, than any where around. These showers are sometimes seen coming from the south-west, along the Ochil-hills, and the Cleish hills at the same time; and when they come opposite to Tulliebole, a part of them has been observed to separate on both sides, from the main body of the clouds, and meet on a rising ground, adjoining to the Crook of Doan. From the

the attraction of the hills on either side, there is more cloudy and rainy weather, and later seasons here, than in many other districts; yet the situation is abundantly healthful; the high winds carry off the vapours; and the streams of water having great declivities on every hand, little stagnating water remains; and when the sky is clear, the air is uncommonly pure and dry.

Diseases.—There are no peculiar diseases which prevail in the parish. An ague, or a bloody-flux, are seldom heard of; fevers are perhaps more common than any other disease. A fever, which at its first appearance, seemed to be of the nervous kind, but which in the end became putrid, carried off many about 2 years ago. Few families escaped; and it extended to many of the parishes around. The medicine which proved most successful, was the jesuits bark given with port-wine. This remedy when applied in time, under the direction of a professional man, was commonly successful. We sometimes hear of a consumption; of a cancer; and of a dropfy. A few years ago, a woman died, who had been tapped for a dropfy 16 times, and after all recovered. The quantity of water taken from her at these different times, was calculated to be 34 Scotch pints. She died, when far advanced in life, not of a dropfy, but of complaints arising from old age. Rheumatic complaints are not uncommon. Children frequently die of the small-pox. Against inoculation, there is amongst the lower classes of the people, an almost universal prejudice, of a religious nature, which neither example, nor precept, nor the reasonable terms upon which inoculation can be obtained, have yet overcome.

Though the two parishes taken together, form a large and populous district, there is not a physician, nor a surgeon, nor a midwife in either. Women in child-bed have, however,

ever, good assistance at no great distance; and they are, in general, very fortunate. Good medical aid is also to be had from all the neighbouring towns. It is also reasonable to acknowledge with gratitude, that the united parishes lie under peculiar obligations to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Several persons, of late, labouring under various complaints, have been received into the Infirmary, recommended to the physicians by heritors, or by the minister, all of whom received great benefit from their residence there; and most of whom were fully restored to health. If the finances of that house should at any time be deficient, the managers are well entitled to the public aid.

Population.

Annual Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, at an average of ten years.

35 9 25

The number of inhabitants at present, is 1505. Of these, 1065 belong to the Established Church; there are 388 Anti-burgher-seceders; 48 Burghers; 2 Episcopalian; 1 Cameronian; and 1 Roman Catholic.

Under 10 years of age,	Males 138	Females -	138
Betwixt 10 and 20	- 176	----- -	152
----- 20 and 50	- 272	----- -	339
----- 50 and 70	- 112	----- -	125
----- 70 and 80	- 23	----- -	19
----- 80 and 90	- 6	----- -	5
	-----		-----
	Total Males 727	Total Females	778

The females exceed the males in number 51. The oldest person in the parish, is a woman, who completes her 90th year in December next. She is still able to walk, and to spin,

spin, and sees more distinctly, than when at the age of 70. The number of married persons is 456, and the number of children from each marriage, between 5 and 6. The number of families is 340, and the number of persons in each family, between 4 and 5. The number of inhabitants has been decreasing for several years. In the year 1755, by the return made to Dr Webster, the number was 1765. In the year 1771, it was 1828; in the year 1780, 1716; in the year 1785, 1610; and it has been stated as at present only 1505. Many reasons can be given for this diminution of numbers. A few years ago, several weavers, masons, and house-carpenters, with their families, went into towns, where they found more ready employment, and higher wages. Several gentlemen having inclosed their lands, they have let them in grass, and have no fixed tenants; others, having taken the possession of them into their own hands, and going on with their improvements, have dismissed several of their cottagers; the new mode of ploughing without a driver, which now very much prevails, has lessened the number of farm-servants; and the union of different farms has also had its influence. When agriculture is carried on by employing cottagers, they not only remain longer than other servants on the same farms, but by having families, and a settled residence, they add greatly to the number of the inhabitants. Hired servants frequently change their situations every half-year, and having nothing to attach them to one spot, seldom continue long with any one master. To give encouragement to cottagers, and villages, on proper regulations, would be of service both to proprietors, and to the community at large.

Stature, and general Character of the Inhabitants.—The stature of the inhabitants is not above the middle size. The height of the tallest man in the parish, is about 6 feet 4 inches.

ches. It hath been observed, that those of the middle size, are in general more robust, have fewer complaints, and live longer, than those who are above the ordinary stature. Although few of the original inhabitants of the parish have been much distinguished by their talents, they are not destitute of natural abilities. Their natural dispositions are friendly, generous, and humane. They are contented with their situations, and are not disposed to leave the place of their nativity. Their religious principles are various, as appears from what is already stated. Few, except the gentlemen, conversed much about political affairs, till the works of Thomas Paine appeared. Since that time, the people converse more frequently on those topics. It is, however, but doing them justice to say, that they are firmly attached to the Constitution of this country, as established at the Accession of King William, and to the person and government of his present Majesty. They are in general active, and industrious. Besides the business of agriculture, they apply to the common trades practised in the country. There are taylor, shoemakers, blacksmiths, masons, carpenters, and weavers; all of them well employed, and able to provide for their families. The day-wages of a taylor, is 8d, and 9d, besides his victuals; of a mason and carpenter, from 1s 6d, to 2s. Weavers are employed partly in the manufacture of the cloth used in the parish; and partly by the manufacturers of the neighbouring towns. There is only one baker in the parish. The inhabitants for whom his labour is not sufficient, receive a supply from the towns in the vicinity.

Parochial Improvements.—1. Houses. Within the last 12 years, 24 new houses have been built; though from the removal of tenants and cottagers, a greater number have either fallen into ruins within that period, or have been demolished.

demolished. The greater part of the houses lately built, are intended for the accommodation of the proprietors of land; and are built with stone and lime, in a very convenient and substantial manner, suited to the property and revenues of their owners. There are two ancient houses in the parishes, commonly distinguished by the name of castles, or towers; that of Tulliebole, and that of Aldie. They are both places of strength, or fortalices, with gun-holes and turrets, suitable to the times in which they were built. The castle of Tulliebole was built in the year 1608; the castle of Aldie, in the century preceding. The one is the family seat of Moncreiff-Wellwood of Tulliebole, the other of Mercer of Aldie. As the proprietors, however, do not reside in them, they are fast going into dis-repair; yet it is hoped, and indeed it is pleasing to the country to think, that those monuments of antiquity may still be kept up. At no great expence, they may be made to stand for centuries. In different parts of the parishes, there are houses built adjoining to each other, to the number of 10 or 12; possessed partly by feuars and tenants, and partly by cottagers; yet these are not known by the name of villages. There are only two villages in the parishes; one at the Crook of Dovan, and the other at Blairingone. They are both burghs of barony. The former holds of the family of Tulliebole, the latter belongs to the family of Atholl; both of them have the privilege of holding markets. At the Crook of Dovan, there are two markets annually, the one in May, the other in October. At Blairingone, there is one held in the month of June. Little business is transacted at the Blairingone markets; but the Crook markets, which are for black-cattle, being pretty well attended, may with attention and care, be brought to considerable perfection, and prove very serviceable to the country at large. The only public houses in the parishes, are in those villages;

two at the Crook of Dovan, and two at Blairingone. They may perhaps be all necessary, as, independant of the markets, both villages are on the high road, and Blairingone adjoining the Duke of Atholl's coal-work; but it is universally found, that too many houses, where ardent spirits are sold, do hurt both to the morals and circumstances of the people.

2. Inclosures. Since the year 1782, above 2000 acres of land have been inclosed. The fences are partly made with stone, partly with ditch and hedge. The inclosures are of various dimensions, such as best suited the situation, design, and extent of the farms; they are of all sizes, from 5 to 40 acres. Where they are intended only for pasture, they extend to nearly an 100 acres. A stone dyke is the most immediate, and most secure fence. A hedge in this climate, is slow in growing, but when reared, serves both to beautify and shelter the grounds; and this country, lying high, being much exposed, and having hitherto little advantage from trees, stands much in need of shelter. Proprietors, however, are providing on their lands, a remedy for these inconveniences, by planting.

3. Planting. Planting till of late was not much attended to; there is indeed some natural wood, and some small plantations, in various parts of the parishes, which have been advancing for a considerable time. They are sufficient to shew, that trees will flourish in the soil. This is indeed demonstrated by the trees, which according to an old custom, observed in most parts of Scotland, have been planted around the barn-yards. These, which consist chiefly of ash, plane, and Scotch fir, have grown, even in the highest grounds, to a very considerable size, considering the time when they were planted. Planting is, however, now become fashionable, and is proceeding with rapidity. Within the last 8 years, about 800,000 trees have been planted. Some of them on
the

the lands of Tulliebole; some of them on the northern, but the greatest number on the southern branch of Fossaway. They are partly in larger plantations, partly in smaller stripes; and where they are sufficiently fenced, are, in general, in a thriving state. The trees are of various kinds; Scotch fir, plane, larch, oak, elm, beech, ash, spruce fir, and laburnum. The Scotch fir are in the greatest number; and the larch grows quickest. The last will soon add greatly to the beauty of the country, and afford excellent shelter.

Cultivation and Produce of the Parishes.—Some of the original inhabitants still retain the old method of ploughing, using the old Scotch plough, and joining oxen with horses. Those who are attached to the old modes of farming, are so far from troubling themselves with improvements, that they are not fond of changes of any kind. If a large stone lies in the field, or, if the furrows are drawn crooked, they are unwilling to remove the one, or alter the other; observing that they were so in their fathers days, and that the crops were as good then as they are now. The greatest part of the farmers have happily different views. The new method of ploughing with two horses, and Small's plough, is very generally adopted. In the improvement of their lands, a considerable number of the farmers spare neither pains nor expence. They bring ploughmen from every quarter, and have brought the art of ploughing to a very high degree of perfection. The number of ploughs cannot be ascertained; because on the same quantity of land, the number varies according to the culture in use. The ploughs in the parish of Fossaway, according to the statute work, are upwards of 50; those of the parish of Tulliebole, about 24; more ploughs, however, are occasionally used. Besides, several of the proprietors

and farmers, keep young horses for the harrow. Because the frost continues long in the spring, they sow, in general, later than the people on the coast, and consequently reap later. Wheat has been tried in Tulliebole, and in the southern part of Fossaway; but the climate and soil are perhaps against it. The surest crops are oats, barley, and pease. The greatest part of Tulliebole, and the low lying parts of the northern branch of Fossaway, are of a sharp gravelly soil, and seldom fail in producing good crops. The southern branch of Fossaway, being a mixture of loam and clay, will also bring forward beans, and in good seasons wheat. These are not, however, so sure a crop as oats, barley, and pease. Both parishes taken together, not only serve themselves with grain, but send a considerable quantity to market. Lint is every where sown for family use, and when properly managed makes a good return. All green crops, if the season is not very unfavourable, succeed well. Potatoes, turnips, clover, and rye-grass, when the ground is properly prepared, seldom fail. On the estate of Fossaway, from which the parish derives its name, which lies high, being situated partly on the Ochil hills, very considerable improvements are at present carrying on, by the proprietor, who possesses part of the lands himself. Last season, there was raised a rich crop of turnips, to a large extent; and nearly 300 bolls of potatoes, which were exceedingly fine. This season (1795), not only grass, but almost every other crop promises well; not only there, but in several other parts of both parishes.

Proprietors, Farmers, Farms and Rent.—Those who possess lands, either as proprietors, or tenants, are above 120; besides a few tradesmen and cottagers, who possess as much ground as will maintain one or two cows. These small portions of land, are here called pendicles, as depending upon,

upon, either the proprietors land, or the larger tenants, from whom they are set off, for services or labour performed by the persons who occupy them. None of the most considerable heritors reside in the parish; but almost the whole of the small proprietors and feuars do. The junction of farms does not happen so often as it otherwise might, because the chief part of the smaller heritors possess their own lands, which have neither increased nor diminished for many years. There are farms of all dimensions, from L. 10 to L. 100 per annum. There are none above L. 100, possessed by tenants, except 3; and one of these is rented at L. 300 per annum. Several heritors, however, possess their own lands, which would let at above L. 100 a-year. The value of sheep farms, may be nearly 3s per acre; the arable, from 5s to 10s; and the inclosed lands, from 15s to above L. 1. This is a great encouragement to improvement; for which, notwithstanding all that is done, there is still great room. The valued rent of the 2 parishes, is L. 4106:16s Scots. The real rent cannot be so well ascertained; because many of the heritors having possessed their own lands from time immemorial, they have not been let on lease. The whole rent, however, may be safely calculated above L. 4000 sterling per annum. That this is the case will be evident, when it is considered, that there is, including both parishes, nearly 30,000 English acres of land. Allowing 6000 for moss, water, woods, and rocks, there will still remain 24,000 acres; which, if rented only at 3s 4d per acre, will amount to L. 4000.

The size or extent of farms, has never been fixed here; and it would, indeed, be difficult to fix it; as men, no doubt, would be divided in their opinions. It would, however, be for the advantage both of the proprietors, and the country, that cultivated farms should neither be too large, nor too small.

There

There is one circumstance, which deserves the attention both of proprietors and tenants. A sufficient distinction is not always made betwixt the qualifications which fit a tenant for managing an arable, and those which are adapted to a sheep-farm. The same talents do not render him equally capable of managing both. Tenants are very careful, not to discover their want of knowledge in either, when they are anxious to obtain a farm; and persons often obtain sheep-farms, of which they have no knowledge, who would have managed a cultivated farm well; while others obtain a cultivated farm which they cannot manage, who delighted in, and succeeded in rearing sheep. Indeed it seldom happens, that one who has been long accustomed to manage sheep, has ever much success in cultivating the ground; especially, if he is advanced in life. But besides this, the master, when letting his lands, is always too ready to prefer the highest offer. On the other hand, the opulent tenant generally offers least; while he, who has little to lose, offers more, obtains the farm, and in a few years, a sequestration ensues. It would be more profitable to a proprietor, to receive regularly L. 90 a-year, from an opulent and respectable tenant, esteemed, and serviceable in the country, than to be promised from another L. 100, which he only receives in partial payments, and for which he is often obliged to use legal diligence.

Price of Labour, &c.—The wages of an able day-labourer throughout the year, is 1s per day; the wages of a woman for the harvest, 8d; for men, between 10d and 1s per day; with breakfast and dinner for both. Some farmers hire their reapers during the whole harvest, and pay to men, between 25s and 30s; to women, between 21s and 25s. The wages, however, depend in a great measure on the demand there is for reapers, and the number that is to be hired. The average

wages of men-servants, throughout the year, when they eat in the house, is L. 7; for women, not fully L. 3. Farmers have a ready sale for every article to be disposed of, and there is a constant demand; The prices are, in general, regulated by the markets of Alloa and Kincardine on the coast, and are commonly a little below the Haddington prices. In the parishes, there are common rock, and free-stone for building, moss, lime, and coal. Peats may be got in almost every corner of both parishes, but are not used in great quantities; because coal is at a reasonable price, and near at hand. There are lime rocks in different places; but they are only wrought at present upon the lands of Gartwhinzian. There are two rocks there, which are wrought by the proprietors. The one is on the plain, the other on the banks of the Dovan. The strata of the first are regular, and the stone solid. The lime when slacked, falls at first into large particles, and then gradually dissolves into a small powder of a cream colour. The strata of the other, are confused and unequal; but when slacked, fall immediately into a fine white powder. That upon the banks of the Dovan, is esteemed the whitest; but the other is equally strong. The lime of both rocks, is at present sold at 1s per boll, wheat measure. The sale being wholly inland, is not extensive; yet it is of great service, not only to this parish, but to a considerable part of the adjoining country. The coal which is wrought at present, is at Blairingone, and belongs to the Duke of Atholl. It is found, however, in several other parts of Fossaway, although not wrought. None of this coal is shipped; because it is at a distance from the sea, and besides, the quantity thrown out, is not sufficient to answer, throughout the year, the present demand. The price of the small coal, is 6d, for 3 burdens; for the great coal, 10d, for 24 stones, Tron weight. The driving of lime and coal, is attended with the material disad-

vantage

vantage of bad roads. The noblemen and gentlemen, are, however, exerting themselves to remedy this evil; but it never will be effectually done, until turnpikes are established. The local advantages which have been mentioned, ought to encourage inclosing and improvements; and should induce proprietors and tenants, to exert themselves, to carry them farther than they have yet been carried; especially as it has been found, that land which before being improved, produced no more than between 5 and 6 bolls, from one boll of seed, have after being improved, been brought to yield upwards of 11. In the parishes, there is also iron-stone; but at present, it is not wrought.

Sheep, Horses, and Black Cattle.—The number of sheep, does not exceed 3000; and they are all, what are here called the Tweed's Muir kind, and pasture only on the Ochil hills. The farmers have not begun to try the English sheep; although they are more attentive to obtain a good breed, than they formerly were. They have a ready sale for their wool, mutton, and lamb; and the mutton and lamb are esteemed good. More sheep might be kept, if they did not breed horses and black cattle: Of these, some are bred for private use, others for sale. As their number is constantly varying according to the sales, it is impossible to ascertain it exactly. Black-cattle are peculiarly attended to, of which great numbers are reared. None of them are of the greatest size; but they are exceedingly hardy, and in general, bring good prices. The tenants pay their rents, not only by the sale of grain; but by the profits arising from their sheep, horses, and black-cattle.

Milns.—In the two parishes, there are 9 milns. One lint miln, one waulk miln, one for manufacturing pot barley, and

6 for meal. The one for lint, is on the Dovan near the Crook. It is well employed, and of general utility. The corn-milns have all a thirlage, that is, so many proprietors bound by charter, and so many tenants by leases, to bring their grain to those milns. There is also one barony thirled to a miln which is not in the parish; which, from its distance, it is at all times very inconvenient to use; and in the winter season, almost impossible. Thirlage operates in every instance as a tax on industry, and is in a high degree unfavourable to the improvement of the country. It would perhaps be better for the proprietors of the milns, as well as for the general advantage of the country, to sell the thirlage; which the heritors are not only willing to purchase, but for which they would give a good price; though in most cases, the convenience of the situations would lead them to bring their grain to the same milns which they use at present.

Schools.—There are two schools in the parishes; one situated at the Crook of Dovan, and the other at Blairingone. The one at the Crook is the parochial school; and the school at Blairingone, is for the benefit of the children belonging to the work people of the colliery. The teacher at Blairingone has very small encouragement; nothing but what arises from the wages paid him by the scholars, and a small subscription, which does not exceed L. 9 annually. If nothing more can be procured, it is probable, that in a short time this school will be given up, to the great detriment of the village. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster, is L. 5 : 11 : 1½d sterling, per annum, in money, with a piece of land, worth about the same sum; and the emoluments arising from the offices of precentor and session-clerk. Parochial schoolmasters commonly receive a good education, are a body of men of great importance to this country, and certainly deserve much better

encouragement from the landed proprietors, than they at present receive.

State of the Poor.—There are 24 persons at present on the list of the parish poor; and the funds to support them do not much exceed L. 30 per annum. This sum arises from the interest of money, from parochial collections, and from some casualties. There have never been any legal assessments in the parishes. The sum for the support of such a number of poor, is certainly small. There are none among them, however, who cannot work a little; and some of them only receive a small occasional allowance, when the prices of grain are high. There are 2 blind women on the list; and it is surprising how much they can spin. The severest season which has happened here for a long time, was in 1782. At that time, every description of men exerted themselves to assist the poor. A meeting of the heritors, called for the purpose, thought it better to assess themselves, than to encroach on the parish money lent at interest. Different quantities of meal were bought, and sold to the people at the common prices in a year of plenty; and this mode of relief was continued till the scarcity was no longer felt.

The parish received some advantages besides, from the assistance given by Government in that year, to some of the northern counties of Scotland. Perth-shire was included; and Fossaway being in Perth-shire, received its proportion, which was extremely useful; and was faithfully applied.

Birds and Quadrupeds.—Birds, such as are common in hilly countries, are found here. Moorfowl, partridges, plover, field-fare, dotterel, wild ducks, ravens, a small species of the eagle, the kite; and in winter, wild geese. Of quadrupeds, there are foxes, badgers, otters, pole-cats, hares, and rabbits.

Those

Those who delight to amuse themselves with the hounds, or with the gun, will always find enough to gratify them here. There are no where greater numbers of partridges and hares. The carnivorous raven is particularly destructive to the young lambs. His method of attack is singular and savage; when he darts on the lamb, he first attacks the eyes, and when the animal cries, he seizes on the tongue. The destruction of the fox, and of this kind of raven, is an object of importance in this country.

Etymology of Names of Places.—Dovan, Dobh-an, “swelling or raging water,” very properly applied to the river Doan; because it frequently swells to a very great height, considering its size; and runs with great rapidity and violence, until it arrives at the banks of Dollar. Gairney-Garana, “The underwoods.” There are two small rivers, which have both the name of Gairney, which rise in the parishes; the one called the East, and the other the West Gairney; because the one runs east, and the other west; and the banks of both in some places, are shaded with copse wood. Solsgirth, has had different etymologies assigned to it; but among others, it has been supposed to be a Saxon name; which may signify a Girth, “or sanctuary for the soles of one’s feet.” It is situated in a corner of the county, where Fife and Clackmannan-shires join with it; so that persons flying from justice, from either of those counties, would here find an asylum. Near this place, where two rivulets meet, one may place the right foot on Perth-shire, the left on Fife-shire; stooping down, one may place both his hands in the county of Clackmannan; and while in that posture, is partly in 3 counties. Blairingone, Blairingoithne; “the field of spears;” So called perhaps from making weapon-shawings there, and exercising people in the use of the spear, near the seat of the chief. For the chieftain

of the Murrays had a family seat at this place. The Scottish spear was an instrument of war much used in the lowlands; and was always found to be more than a match for the highland broad sword. A proof of this, appears in that rencounter which took place between Huntly and Murray, at Corrichie, October 28th, 1562. Dr Robertson, when mentioning this affair, saith, "The highland broad sword is not
 " a weapon fit to encounter the Scottish spear. In every civil
 " commotion, the superiority of the latter has been evident;
 " and has always decided the contest." By statute, 1481, chap. 81, it is enacted, that spears shall not be made, or sold, that are shorter than 5 ells and a half. Gartwhinzian, from Gart, an head, and Coinnean, a meeting or rendezvous. Every chieftain had a known place of rendezvous, to which the whole clan were obliged to repair, on a signal given. The Rocky Pinnacle, now vulgarly called Gibson's Craig, is said to be the real Gartwhinzian, where the whole clan of the Murrays assembled to attend their chief.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of the parishes, are the following. The Palace-Brae, Car-Leith, Hall-Yard, Monks-Grave, Gallow-Know, Trooper's Dubb, and the Reformation-Clogg. The Murrays of Tullibardine, the progenitors of his Grace the Duke of Atholl, were the ancient chieftains of this parish; and proprietors of a great many other lands in the neighbourhood. At this day, the whole of both parishes still holds of the Duke of Atholl; excepting the barony of Aldie, the barony of Tulliebole, the barony of Coldrain, the lands of Pitvar, and one farm belonging to Sir John Stewart of Grandtully. This last farm, although it lies in the centre of the barony of Carnbo, commonly called Carnbo-Stewart, which was disjoined, as before mentioned, from Perth-shire, and added to Kinross, still belongs to the county of Perth.

The

The reason of this was probably the common one; that the whole property of the family of Grandtully, might be kept in the county where the chief part of their estate was situated. The old Earls of Tullibardine had a family seat at Blairingone, on the north-west side of the southern branch of Fossaway. The site of this old building is still visible, and goes by the name of the Palace-Brae.

On the lands of Aldie, there is a rising ground called Carleith. On the middle of this ground, are the ruins of an old building, perfectly circular, and nearly 24 feet diameter. Not long ago, the proprietor ordered this ground to be planted, and the stones were dug up to make the fence. When the work people were going on, they found two stone coffins near the centre. They were 4 feet long, and 3 broad, and contained to all appearance some human bones and teeth, and something resembling tallow, which went to ashes, as soon as exposed to the air. One of the coffins was destroyed, before the work men attended to it. The other was preserved entire; and consists of 5 stones pretty exactly joined together, and a very large one for the cover. Various conjectures are formed concerning these ruins. Some imagine, that it has been a place of worship: others, that it was a burying place; and that some persons of distinction have been buried there. Although a satisfactory account of it cannot be given, it is accounted one of the antiquities of the parish. Aldie, which originally belonged to the Earl of Tullibardine, was given away as a portion, with the beautiful lady Aldia Murray, who was married to William Mercer, laird of Meikleour; who was brave and generous, and in the times of feudal aristocracy, strongly supported the chieftain of the Murrays. The barony of Aldie received its name from the lady; and the Mercers upon that occasion assumed the mullet of the Murrays, as a part of their arms; and there

there has been a very close friendship between the two families ever since.

On the barony of Coldrain, or Collin's Drains, as it is originally styled, there is a place called Hall-Yard, adjoining to the present tenant's house. Its form is an oblong square, with the corners a little rounded. It contains 3 roods and 36 falls Scottish measure of land, considerably raised above the surface of the ground, on the north, east, and south. It is surrounded with a ditch, which at present is in most places pretty entire. It is from 15 to 20 feet wide, and although much grown up at the bottom, is about 5 feet deep below the level of the yard; and as there are two or 3 springs of water in the ditch, it is probable that it was originally filled with water. Within this area stood a building, which seems to have been of some note and strength; and from the foundation of which, not many years ago, large stones were dug up. The country tradition is, that it was a hunting place, belonging to the Earls of Atholl. It belongs at present, to James Stedman of Whinfield near Kinross, and is considered as an antiquity, for the same reason as the Palace Brae.

The whole of the barony of Coldrain, originally belonged to the Earls of Atholl. This appears from the copy of a charter of apprising, in possession of the above mentioned gentleman. This charter is dated at Edinburgh the 26th December 1609. It appears that Umquhille, John Earl of Atholl, father to James Earl of Atholl, Lord Innermay and Balvany, owed a debt of 17,348 merks Scots, to Sir David Hermy of Lethindy; for which, the whole barony was adjudged. The lands were adjudged by a special jury, to be worth no more than 10,000 merks; and 500 merks to the Sheriff appointed on the business. As no person appeared for the family of Atholl, to satisfy Sir David in payment,
the

the lands were exposed to sale, and the tenants, who either held their lands by lease, or wadsett, appeared, and were the purchasers. The greatest part of these lands, belong in property to the descendants of the original purchasers at this very day; but the superiority is vested in the family of Kinross. The price of those lands at the sale in 1609, was about 7s 6d per acre, and as they would now rent at nearly that sum, this shews the great increase of the value of land.

The lands of Pitvar in like manner, belonged originally to the family of Tullibardine; and were given away on another occasion. A clan then at variance with the Murrays, had made a spreith, or open theft of their cattle, and burnt some houses. The clan Murray, under their chieftain, was immediately raised. They pursued the aggressors, and found them in a church, feasting on the cattle. They shut the gates, and setting fire to the church, not a person escaped. This piece of revenge, though cruel, was perfectly characteristic of the feudal times. “To forgive an injury, says Dr Robert-son, was mean; to forbear revenge, infamous or cowardly. Hence quarrels were transmitted from father to son, and under the name of deadly feuds, subsisted for many generations, with unmitigated rancour.” This action which appeared cruel, and being committed in the church, which was reduced to ashes, was highly offensive to the clergy. They represented it in terms so highly aggravated, that the Murrays were excommunicated by the Pope. In those days, says the above author, “A sentence of excommunication was no less formidable than a sentence of outlawry. Besides excluding those, upon whom it fell, from Christian privileges, it deprived them of all their rights as men, or as citizens.” Hence, as an atonement, and to make up peace with the church, the chieftain of the Murrays made over the lands of Pitvar to the abbots of Culross. These
lands

lands now hold of the crown, as having come in the place of that abbacy; and the first minister of Culrofs, at present, receives the duties payable out of these lands, as part of his stipend. The name of Pitvar, is still enumerated among the other lands in the Duke of Atholl's charters. As it was the most southern part of the lands belonging to the Murrays, and on the extremity of the county, it is highly probable, that it obtained the original name of Pitvar, by way of distinction; Pit, signifying a hollow, and Varar, an old name of Murray. For it is well known, that Vararis *Æstuarium* was the Latin name for the Murray's Firth. Sometime after this, a dispute arose between the Tullibardine family, and the Abbots of Culrofs, as to the limits of Pitvar; when a monk from Culrofs, standing upon the common between the lands of Gartwhinzian and Pitvar, made oath that he was then standing on the property lands of Culrofs. One of the Tullibardine party, enraged at his uttering such a falsehood, immediately run him through the body. Upon examining his boots, they were found to contain earth which he had brought with him from Culrofs. He was buried on the spot, and the place still retains the name of the Monk's Grave, and is ranked among the antiquities of the parishes.

When the rights of the Scottish proprietors came to assume a regular form, historians inform us, that, "The lands of
 " some were erected into baronies, those of others into rega-
 " lities. The jurisdiction of the former was extensive, that
 " of the latter, as the name implies, royal, and almost un-
 " bounded. All causes, whether civil or criminal, were
 " tried by judges, whom the Lord of the Regality appoint-
 " ed." Such power was never granted, but to families of distinction. The proprietor of Tulliebole had this jurisdiction. During the last century, a quarrel took place between two of his vassals, at a market in the Crook of Doan. In
 the

the heat of passion, the one drew his knife, and stabbed the other to the heart. When his anger was abated, and he had recollected what he had done, he immediately fled. A party however, was immediately sent after him, who overtaking him before he had reached a mile from the place, brought him back. He was kept in close confinement all that night. Next day he was tried for the murder; a jury was summoned; the Lord of the Regality presided. Witnesses were examined; the fact was clearly proven. The prisoner being found guilty, was condemned to be hanged the same evening. The place appointed for the execution, was a small rising ground, at the east end of the village of the Crook of Dovan. As this was the only person who ever suffered in the parish, his death has been handed by tradition, from one generation to another; and the small piece of ground where the gallows was erected, still goes by the name of the Gallow-know, and serves not only to keep up the remembrance of this murder, trial, and execution, but of the jurisdiction formerly exercised by the Scottish Barons. Though no injustice appears to have been done in this case, it is one of the subjects for which this country ought to be grateful to providence, that the execution of the criminal law is now happily placed in better hands.

In ancient times, the Kings of Scotland had frequent occasion to pass from their palace at Stirling, to their palace at Falkland; and sometimes took their route by the way of Tulliebole. One of the King Jameses, tradition does not say which of them, being to pass that way, was asked by the family of Tulliebole to dine. The invitation was accepted. His Majesty's retinue being numerous, and the castle of Tulliebole not being sufficiently commodious for the whole company, a tent was erected on a piece of plain ground, near a small rivulet. The entertainment was so very agreeable to

the King, that he conferred the honour of Knighthood on his host that very day. Amongst the King's attendants, was a trooper much celebrated for his ability in drinking intoxicating liquors. Among the laird of Tulliebole's vassals, there was one named Keltie, (a name still common in the barony,) equally renowned for the same kind of dangerous pre-eminence. The trooper and he had heard of each other; and each was desirous to try the strength of the other. They had no opportunity while the King was there; but they agreed to meet early on a Monday morning, soon after, on the same spot where the King had dined. It is not said what kind of liquor they made use of; but they drank it from what are here called quaffs, a small wooden vessel, which holds about half an English pint. They continued to drink, till the Wednesday evening, when the trooper fell from his seat, seemingly asleep. Keltie, took another quaff, after the fall of his friend, to show that he was the conqueror; and this gave rise to a proverb, well known over all this country, *Keltie's Mends*; and nothing is more common, at this very day, when one refuses to take his glass, than to be threatened with, *Keltie's Mends*. Keltie dropped from his seat afterwards, and fell asleep. But when he awakened, he found his companion dead. He was buried in the same place, and as it is near a small pool of water, it still retains the name of "the Trooper's Dubb." The anecdote should serve as a warning against the criminal and preposterous folly which occasioned it. Some of the people are still credulous enough to imagine, that the trooper is still seen sometimes sitting on the spot; and in the night, would rather go a mile out of their way, than pass by the Trooper's Dubb. The road leading by this place, still retains the name of the *Court Gate*, or *Court Way*.

Among the antiquities of the parishes, may also be enumerated an anvil stock, that was the property of a blacksmith

smith in the Crook of Dovon before the Reformation. At that time, a Roman Catholic priest officiated in the parish; who was a great declaimer against the marriage of the clergy. The blacksmith, had notwithstanding reason to suspect that he was too familiar with his wife; and pretending to go on a journey, he returned unexpectedly, and found the priest and his wife together. This son of Vulcan, however, did not, like his predecessor in the case of Mars and Venus, prepare a net to link them together; but he hammered out a most substantial staple, and indignantly dragging the priest to the anvil stock, he nailed him to it by means of the staple, and by that part of his body which had done the mischief. He then laid down a knife, and setting fire to the smith's shop, gave the priest his choice, either "to cut or to burn." The priest hesitated, till the flames approached him; but was at last obliged to have recourse to the knife. He never afterwards made his appearance in the parish; and no other Roman Catholic priest was permitted to succeed him; the anvil stock, has therefore the name of "the Reformation Clogg;" and the story is known by the title of "cut or burn." The original clogg itself has been in the possession of the last 5 ministers of the parish; and is now in the possession of the writer of this account. This affair is said to have happened during the time that Mary Queen of Scots was confined a prisoner in the castle of Lochleven, under the care of William Douglas, to whom it belonged.

Natural Curiosities.—In working the lime rock, the workmen sometimes meet with pieces of it resembling the shells of sea-fish. Lately, there was a piece found, exactly similar to a common octavo bible bound in white vellum. Both from the appearance of leaves, uncut, and from its cover, every person who has seen it, takes it for a book.

The most striking curiosities, however, are the Devil's Miln, the Rumbling Bridge, and the Caldron Linn on the river Doon.

1. The Devil's Miln. The Devil's miln lies highest up the river, and about an English mile below the present church of Fossaway. It is formed by the water falling over a small cascade, into a cavity made in the rock below. Here is heard all that noise, peculiar to a great body of water falling upon a miln-wheel, and driving it round with great velocity and force. In the cavity below, the water is continually tossed round with great violence, and constantly beating on the sides of the rock. From this it happens that a noise similar to the sound made by a going miln, is distinctly heard, when the water has force enough, by its quantity, to beat the rock violently; and when it is not so high, as to cover the cavity altogether. As this miln, according to the country phrase, goes Sunday and Saturday, it is from this circumstance, called the Devil's miln. Near this, and on the Muckart side of the river, is something resembling a coal level, running into the rock; which is called the Pigeons cave. This, as the access to it is difficult, has not been examined with so much accuracy, as to ascertain whether it has been formed by nature, or by art.

2. The Rumbling Bridge. About 350 yards below the Devil's miln, stands the Rumbling bridge. It is so called, from the rumbling noise which the water makes; pushing along from cascade to cascade, on the channel below. The span of the arch of this bridge, is 22 feet; its breadth 11, and its height 36. Its height, however, from the surface of the water, varies according to the swelling of the river, when the measurement is taken. When one sees the bridge itself, the high rocks all in view, the natural wood with which in some places they are covered, the water running along from one fall to another below, in
some

some places by the jutting out of the rocks, concealed from the eye, and in others, appearing again; when he sees it here calm and smooth, there all covered with foam, and in other places broken, boiling, and tumultuous, and remarks the multitude of fowls which are constantly flying about, he will readily acknowledge, that the whole forms a very diversified, beautiful, and romantic scene; which well deserves to be described, and to attract the attention of travellers.

3. Caldron Linn. A mile farther down the river, is found the Caldron Linn. There are here two falls of water. The uppermost fall is 34 feet in height; but is not perpendicular. The other is 44 feet in height, and is almost completely perpendicular. The two falls are distant from each other, 28 yards. The distance between the rocks, on each side of the river, is not every where the same; but increases from 12 to 22 feet, and is least at the highest fall. Here too are intervening rocks; and there is one like a pillar in the midst of the water, horizontal on the top, by which many persons have passed from the one side to the other. In the space between the two falls, are 3 round cavities which the water has formed in the rock, which have the appearance of large caldrons, or boiling vessels, from which the name is derived. In the first, there is the perpetual agitation of boiling water, the second is always covered with foam, and the third is constantly calm and placid. The caldrons are of different dimensions; and the third which is the largest, may be perhaps 22 feet in diameter. When the river is low, they communicate with each other, not by the water running over their mouths; but by apertures made, by the force of the waters in the course of time through the rocks which separate them, at perhaps the middle depth of the caldron. In consequence of this, the third caldron, which communicates with the great fall, has formed an opening for itself,
out

out of which the whole water, when the river is not swelled, rushes out to the great fall, with great violence, and with a very striking effect. As this caldron, which indeed has not been measured, still appears to be very deep, the aperture cannot reach to the bottom. The aperture resembles a door, or a large window, having a piece of the rock like a lintel still remaining on the top. When the whole water makes its way through this opening, the height of the fall is lessened perhaps 7 or 8 feet. To a person looking up from the side of the pool below, as no part of the river above is to be seen, it has the appearance of a great body of water, from some prodigious spring, gushing out of the rock. When the river is large, the water runs over the lintel, as it formerly did at all times, and then the height of the fall is as great as it ever was. Some months ago, a part of the rock on the south side of the river, adjoining the fall, was broken off, and fell into the pool below. Yet this has made little alteration on the fall; but the force of the water, will no doubt, in process of time, make a great change on it. The caldrons may be equally well seen on both sides of the river; but the great fall is seen to most advantage, from the south. There is an access to the side of the pool below, where the view of the fall is most complete. Between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon, is the most proper time to view it. The sun then shines directly in front of the fall; and as there is a gentle vapour continually arising from the pool, into which the water falls, it exhibits to the eye, all the different colours of the rainbow which, by the perpetual agitation of the wind, appear and disappear, so as to form the most striking and picturesque scene.

Rivers.—There are various streams of water running through both parishes; but the only river connected with either,

either, is the Dovan. It rises in the parish of Alva, and directing its course eastward, separates the parish of Tillicoultry from Blackford; runs through the middle of Glendovan; is the line of march between Muckart and the northern branch of Fossaway; touches at the village of the Crook of Dovan, (so called, because there it turns,) and taking its course in a south-west direction, again separates Muckart from the southern branch of Fossaway; passes by Dollar, Tillicoultry, and Alva; and empties itself into the river Forth, nearly opposite to its source, and only about 6 English miles distant from it. Taking from its source to the Crook of Dovan, a straight line, and another straight line to where it falls into the Forth, they form an angle of about 224 degrees. It runs a course, including its windings, of about 40 miles.

The Dovan affords excellent trout, and the trouts are all of what are called the burn, or moss kind. No salmon, or salmon trout, can pass the Caldron-linn. There are, however, some Lochleven trout caught in the Dovan, which are easily distinguished from the burn trout, being of a quite different kind. This to a stranger would appear inexplicable, yet it is easy to account for it. A little above the Crook, there is a small stream of water which falls into the Dovan. Part of this stream is carried off to supply the village with water. What is taken off runs towards Kinross; and when it is flooded, the trouts, in the spawning season come up, get into the larger stream, and from thence into the Dovan, from whence it is supposed few return. When the river is greatly flooded, the trouts are found to fly from the current of the stream, to the calm and still water at the sides. Then it is that many people, with small hand nets, drag the calm pools, and catch them in prodigious numbers. This greatly hurts the fishing with the rod.

Bridges.—

Bridges.—The bridges on the Dovan, connected with Fossaway, are 5. The Vicars bridge, leading from the north, to the coal at Blairingone, said to be built by a Vicar, who once lived at Dollar, but in what year, is uncertain. It was widened 6 feet, about 30 years ago. Higher up the river stands the Rumbling bridge, built about the year 1723. The next is the bridge at the present church of Fossaway, on the high road from Stirling to Kinross. It was built in the year 1767. At a considerable distance farther up the river, stand other two bridges, distant from each other, about an English mile. The first, is called Old Fossaway bridge, because it is built near where Old Fossaway church stood. The other is called St Serfs bridge, and it forms a communication between the parish of Dunning, and the coal at Blairingone. Both these bridges were built as they presently stand, within the last 60 years.

A Flood on the Dovan.—The greatest flood which has been observed on the Dovan for many years, was in the month of Sept. 1785. The rain began about 4 o'clock in the morning. About 9, the river was increasing with great rapidity. At 10, it had covered the marks taken notice of in a large flood. This led to a closer observation. The river swelled to at least 18 inches perpendicular, above the height to which it had been known to rise for many years. Though the rain, where these observations were made, continued as violent as ever, the river began to decrease, nearly in the same proportion, in which it had been increasing a little before. At first, this appeared quite inexplicable; but the cause was soon known. The rain had abated on the hills, from whence the streams descend, which supply the river; and all the water that fell on the low ground, had no influence to keep up the river at its former height. At the Rumbling bridge, the river was running

ning with prodigious rapidity and force, and had covered all the cascades, which are observable when at its ordinary size. It carried along with it great quantities of grain from the fields, many trees, and several sheep. The river, from a little above the Devil's miln to the Rumbling bridge, is hemmed in by rocks on each side, not distant, where farthest from each other, more than 16 feet; and in some places so near, that it may be stepped over. The Caldron Linn appeared in its highest dignity. As the water filled almost the whole space between the two falls, up to the summit of the rocks, the uppermost fall was scarcely discernible; but the other appeared in all its majesty. The immense body of water, the height which the fall then had, and the agitation which it produced in the pool below, formed a most striking and even an awful scene; and seemed to make the rock quake at the distance of 30 yards. When looking up from the side of the pool below, to the immense body of water rushing over the fall, it is impossible to describe its dignity, and the amazing whirling and boiling of the pool. It was observed about 2 o'clock; the sun shone bright, and there was a fresh gale of wind. The gentle vapour which appears at all times, had at this time increased like a thin cloud; and ascended fully 200 feet above the tops of the rocks. The rainbow was seen in full perfection; and the cloud being continually tossed by the wind, resembled the Aurora Borealis.

The Dovan, in comparison with other rivers, is exceedingly small; but at this time, it was a considerable river indeed. By an observation made near the present manse of Fossaway, where it is confined by rocks almost perpendicular, to a channel of 50 feet wide, and running on a declivity of 6 feet in 150, it was found to exceed its usual size about 12 feet in perpendicular height.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF TRINITY GASK.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

*By a Friend to Statistical Enquiries.**Situation, &c.*

TRINITY GASK, or Tarnty, as it is vulgarly pronounced, occupies a pleasant situation in Strathearn, an extensive and beautiful district of Perth-shire. It stretches from east to west, along both sides of the river Earn, for several miles. The bank on the north rises with a gentle slope; (as the word *Gask*, in the original Gaelic, is said to denote, *Stat. Hist. of Scotland*, Vol. i. p. 479), and commands a wide and diversified prospect. The ground, to the south of this bank, is chiefly level, and seems to have been the alluvion of the river; which, like the Forth below Stirling, takes through this plain a very winding course, and frequently makes considerable encroachments on its banks.

Heritors.—The principal heritors of the parish, are His Grace the Duke of Atholl; the Earl of Kinnoul; Sir Thomas Moncrieff, Bart. General Drummond of Machany; General Graham

Graham of Balgowan; Thomas Hepburn, Esq. Only two of the heritors reside in the parish.

Population.—This parish, according to the report made to Dr Webster in 1755, contained 913 inhabitants. The present number is 795. The decrease from 1755 to 1795, is 118.

Church. Stipend.—This parish is situated in the county of Perth, the presbytery of Auchterarder, and synod of Perth and Stirling. It consists of the united parishes of Kinkel and Wester Gask; and, as report says, contained a third place of worship, called Chapel-hill. The union of the three, into one parish, is said to have given rise to the present name of Trinity Gask. The kirk at Chapel-hill has long since fallen into ruins. From the rubbish large stones, some with crosses, &c. cut upon them, have been occasionally dug up. The adjoining burying ground is converted into a cottage-garden, in which human bones are sometimes found. Divine worship has till of late been performed in the church of Kinkel; where in summer, the minister officiated every fourth sabbath. The building having fallen into disrepair, is now abandoned as a place of worship; which was the more readily submitted to, as the minister was not supposed to be under any obligation to continue the former practice. The church and manse at Trinity Gask were rebuilt about 20 years ago, and are in good repair. Mr James Brough, the present incumbent, was ordained minister here in 1794. The stipend consists of 36 bolls of oat-meal, 24 bolls of bear, and L. 48 ster. in money. A process of augmentation is at present depending; and the funds for obtaining it are very sufficient. The glebe, consisting of the old glebe of Wester Gask, united to a piece of land, exchanged two years ago for the glebe at Kinkel,

contains 16 acres of good land. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron. One of the first erected Seceding Meeting Houses, belonging to the Antiburgher Synod in Scotland, is at Kinkel; and is regularly attended by a numerous congregation, collected from this parish and the neighbourhood.

School. Poor.—The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of L. 100 Scots, (L. 8 : 6 : 8 ster.) with a free house and garden. The poor on the parish list are 4; besides a few indigent families, who, on particular occasions, receive a little assistance. The funds for their support are chiefly made up of collections at the church, and the interest of L. 100 sterling, saved by the session in times of plenty. The collections at an average amount to about 4s weekly. None of the poor are permitted to beg.

Agriculture and Manufactures.—Although almost the whole parish is arable, upwards of 1000 acres of land, which might be easily improved, are allowed to remain in a state of nature. This muirish land, which lies away from the river in the higher part of the parish, yields but a scanty crop of coarse grass to the cows that are pastured upon it, for a rent of from 1s to 5s per Scotch acre. It seems to accord with the present state of human nature, that men, whether viewed as individuals, or connected in society, should grasp with avidity at foreign treasures; while they leave unimproved the certain advantages which are within their own power. Arable farms, generally consist of a plough-gate of land, containing about 50 or 60 acres. The use of lime and marle has greatly improved the system of agriculture. Grasses are now sown with success; and turnips have lately been cultivated with profit. Clover and potatoes in general do well; and are highly advantageous to the farmer. A considerable

part of the soil, being a mixture of clay and loam, is well calculated for producing wheat, which, in small quantities, is now sown, and it is hoped will soon be in more general use. Lint in some places grows very well; and premiums for cultivating it have been obtained in the parish. Mr Thomas Stalker has this year (1795), preserved lint-feed, from lint produced upon an acre and a half on the banks of the Earn; which, from its situation, seems to have been deposited by the river. The soil is rather heavy, and of a blackish colour. Mr Stalker thinks that the seed will equal in quality any that is imported into Scotland. The parish contains, besides about 40 acres of natural wood, chiefly oak, a good many thriving plantations, which beautify and shelter the country. As many horses are reared in the parish as preclude the necessity of any foreign supply. The breed of late is greatly improved. The cows are rather small, and are preferred to the larger kinds, as being more adapted to the soil, as well as the size of the farms. But were the lands inclosed, and more attention paid to the dairy, a larger breed of milk-cows than the present would probably be found to be more profitable. From 6 to 12 milk cows are kept on each farm of a plough-gate of land. The milk is made into butter, and skimmed-milk cheese, chiefly for the market in Perth. Sheep are almost wholly banished from the parish; and a few hogs are reared for home consumption. The parish is supplied with four meal and two lint-milns. The astrictions by thirlage, to some of these mills, were till of late very oppressive; but in most places a remedy is found, by the proprietors of land, who relieve their tenants from the burden; or by the tenants themselves who purchase the right to the multures, and thereby have the liberty of grinding their corns where they please. The grain produced in the parish is greatly more than sufficient for the consumption of the inhabitants.

Manufactures

Manufactures have scarcely, if at all, found their way into this parish; it contains, however, as many tradesmen as are necessary, in ordinary cases, for the customary work of the inhabitants.

Fishings.—The river Earn, the only water of consequence in this neighbourhood, abounds with excellent salmon and trout. The salmon are caught in considerable abundance, chiefly in two cruives, which are placed in the river, and for the use of which a yearly rent is paid.

Roads and Bridges.—The roads in general are extremely bad; and, in some places, almost impassible in wet weather. The communication over the Earn was formerly by means of a ferry, which, on many occasions, was very dangerous; but an excellent stone-bridge was lately built near Kinkel. This, and the other bridges in the district, being built by a voluntary subscription, are not burthened with any pontage.

Antiquities.—The only piece of antiquity worth notice, is a part of the Roman road, or causeway, that runs from Stormont to the celebrated camp at Ardoch. This road, for more than a mile, in a straight line, occupies the highest ground in the parish. It is very complete, and, with little or no repair, serves for a public road. The stones of which it is made are pretty large; and are laid in good order. It is commonly dry, even in the wettest season of the year. The road, however, of which it makes a part, is but little frequented.

Miscellaneous Observations.—Two small public houses, one at Trinity Gask, and the other at Kinkel, are found to be necessary for retailing ale and whisky, for the accommodation of the

the neighbourhood. They are productive of no bad consequences.

The most noted well in the parish is at Trinity Gask. It is remarkable for the purity and lightness of its water; the spring is copious and perennial. Superstition, aided by the interested artifices of popish priests, raised, in times of ignorance and bigotry, this well to no small degree of celebrity. It was affirmed, that every person who was baptized with the water of this well, would never be seized with the plague. In those times, few ventured to disbelieve what was asserted by the Monkish Clergy; and fewer were possessed of fortitude to oppose the system of influence, which the Established Church had obtained? But the extraordinary virtue of Trinity Gask well has perished with the downfall of superstition, and the introduction of a free and rational enquiry into nature and religion.

One great disadvantage, under which the inhabitants of this parish labour, is their distance from fuel. The works from which coal is generally procured, are distant about 20 miles, and the roads far from being good. Half the summer is spent in bringing home as much coal as is necessary for the winter's supply. Peats are procured from the moss of the higher grounds, but not without great labour and waste of time. And it is obvious, that the time and labour which the necessary provision of fuel requires, must be equally unfavourable to the industry of the mechanic and of the farmer. These disadvantages, however, are common to many places in the neighbourhood.

The low grounds through which the Earn takes its serpentine course, are exposed to frequent inundations from the river. Owing to this circumstance, the land cannot with safety be plowed till late in spring; and even then, a sudden fall of rain upon

upon the neighbouring heights swells the river, and carries away the soil the whole depth of the furrow, and that frequently after the seed is sown. The land being thus deprived of its fertilizing soil, and not infrequently covered with sand and gravel, remains a long time in a state of barrenness. The harvest floods are sometimes alarming and ruinous to the farmer. His fields of corn are often entirely destroyed, and the grain carried down by the stream. His mind is kept in constant alarm, during the rainy season; and the sabbath is often spent in removing the crop to a place secure from the reach of the water. Upon lands thus situated, few improvements in agriculture can be carried on. Inclosures, whether by stone dykes, hedges, or ditches, are rendered useless by the floods from the river; the dykes are levelled with the ground; the hedges torn up by the roots; and the ditches filled up with sand and gravel. Proper drains in such situations are impracticable; and the manure laid upon the land is often rendered useless, or wholly swept away. The common course of cropping on the extensive tract of land, which is thus exposed, is 3 years in white crops successively; and 3 years, often 4, in lee. Much land is also wholly lost, by the frequency with which the river changes its course. No fewer than 12 acres in one farm, have within a few years been carried away from the banks, by the force of the water. The only remedy for these evils, is to straighten the course of the water, and to secure it by proper embankments.

N U M B E R X I X .

P A R I S H O F P E R T H .

(COUNTY OF PERTH,—PRESBYTERY OF PERTH,—SY-
NOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,—COMMISSARIOT
OF ST. ANDREWS.)

By the Rev. Mr JAMES SCOTT.

§ 1. *Name of the Town.*

THE town of Perth gives its name, not only to the parish,
but also to the extensive county in which it is situated.

The late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, (*Annals of Scotland*, Vol. ii. p. 341.) says, “The derivation of the
“word Perth, used in vol. i. p. 138, ought to be omitted.
“I have been favoured with different interpretations of the
“word. Not knowing which to chuse, I judge it best to
“omit them all.”

In this Statistical Account, however, some explanation of
the name may be expected.

The word Perth, is pronounced by the Highlanders, Peirt
or Peart. According to this pronunciation, the word is said
by some persons to mean a finished labour, or complete piece
of work; and to refer to the building of the town, or to the
fortifications with which it was originally surrounded.

But Fordun, (vol. ii. p. 99.) when speaking of a remarkable siege which the town sustained from the Norwegians, in the time of the Picts, during which the Scots joined with the Picts in repelling the enemy, says, "I have found, in some old writs, that the town of St John, now called Perth, was anciently called Bertha."

The contracted pronunciations of Bertha, are Berth and Bert; and, as the letters B and P were used indiscriminately in the Gaelic language, the Highlanders might easily change the name into Perth or Pert.

Bertha, in the German language, signifies celebrity, splendor, or what is deservedly illustrious, the same as Eudoxia in the Greek. Those persons who were called Eudocia by the Greeks, were by the Germans called Bertha. If the Picts therefore, in whose territory the town was, were originally Goths or Germans, there would then be no necessity of seeking for a Celtic derivation of the word Perth.

§ 2. *Origin and Roman Name of the Town.*

There were towns in Britain prior to the time of the Roman invasion. But it may be presumed, from the rude state of the arts, and the wandering manner of life of the inhabitants, that they scarcely deserved to be called by that name.

That particular tribe of the Picts which possessed, with some other small territories, the county of Fife, and that portion of the county of Perth which lies on the south of the Tay, were called the Horestii.

Whether, before the Romans invaded the country, there were any constant or occasional assemblage of the people, in dwellings erected for them, where Perth now stands, cannot perhaps at this distance of time be determined with any certainty.

tainty. We may therefore pass on to the generally received opinion which is, that the town was regularly built; and fortified at the command of Agricola, while he was prosecuting his conquests on the north side of the Forth.

Richard of Cirencester, the discovery of whose book has thrown great light on the antiquities of Scotland, when speaking of the Horestii, says, "Their towns were Alauna, Lindum, and Victoria; the last of which was more illustrious than the rest, not only in name, but also in reality. It was built by Agricola, at the river Tay, 20 miles from the exit of that river into the sea." (Rich. Itinerary, lib. i. c. 6.)

This is an exact description of the situation of the town of Perth. The distance to Dundee, which is commonly considered as marking the exit of the river, is 20 English miles. It is probable, however, that Richard meant Scots or computed miles, as he had his report from some Monks of his order, who had been in Scotland in the 13th century, and had there examined the remains of Roman antiquities. He might therefore speak, according to the manner of the country, of the distance of Perth from what may be called the real exit of the river. He evidently means Perth, and Mr Whitaker, in his history of Manchester, applies the name accordingly. Perth, or Victoria, is reckoned to have been one of the Latin towns, on which ample privileges were always conferred.

Mr Henry Adamson, a young man of the clerical profession, Son of James Adamson, Provost of Perth, and brother of Dr John Adamson, Principal of the College of Edinburgh, wrote his metrical history of Perth about the year 1620, which was published, after his death, in the year 1638.

The name which Mr Adamson gave to his book, was, "the Muses Threnodie." But, according to the fashion of

the times, when the book was to be published, it received the fantastical name of "Gall's Gabions."

It is written in a very handsome and spirited manner; and William Drummond of Hawthorndean, the celebrated Scottish poet of those times, wrote a complimentary letter to Mr Adamson, desiring him to publish his work, and congratulating the town of Perth on having given birth to a citizen, "so eminent in love to her, and so dear to the Muses."

Mr Drummond's letter was dated July 12th, 1637. But it did not arrive, if it arrived at all, at Perth, till after Mr Adamson's death, who died in May 1637.

I have thought it necessary to mention these few particulars concerning Mr Henry Adamson, as introductory to the use to be made of his history; and more especially, as, I find the brevity required in this Statistical Account, will not permit me to take any farther notice of him, or of any other remarkable persons, natives of the town of Perth, unless some more important articles were to be neglected.

The purport of what he says of the origin of Perth, with some additional circumstances, from Tacitus and Fordun, is as follows.

"Cnæus Julius Agricola, in the third year after Vespasian, who had sent him to be governor in Britain, viz. about the year of the Christian Æra 79, led a numerous army, round by the pass of Stirling, into the country on the north side of the Forth. New nations or tribes were discovered, which the Romans wasted all the way to the Tay. The people fled before them; so that Agricola, in his progress, had leisure to erect many forts or castles.

"He was nearly 5 years establishing the Roman power on the north of the Forth, till he was recalled by Domitian. At first, the natives, in the winter, demolished the summer
" camps

“ camps or fortresses. But these, as well as the winter residences, were at last rendered impregnable.

“ When Agricola and his army first saw the river Tay, and the adjacent plain on which Perth is now situated, they cried out with one consent, *Ecce Tiber! Ecce Campus Martius!* Behold the Tiber! Behold the field of Mars! comparing what they saw, to their own river, and to the extensive plain in the neighbourhood of Rome. The Italians, many ages after, were in use to give to the Tay, the name of New Tiber; and Fordun gave the name of Tyber-more, to an extensive moor which lies west from the town of Perth.

“ As the field at Rome was by the early Romans consecrated to Mars, so their descendants found, in the field adjoining the Tay, an old temple, which the British or Welsh writers say, was built many ages before, by one of the British kings, and dedicated to Mars. The Romans performed worship there to that heathen deity, in hopes of their expedition's being favoured in the new country into which they were come.

“ Agricola pitched his camp in the middle of that field, on the spot where Perth stands. He proposed to make it a winter camp; and afterwards built what he intended should be a colonial town. He fortified it with walls, and with a strong castle, and supplied the ditches with water by an aqueduct from the Almond.

“ Also, with much labour to his soldiers, and probably to the poor natives, a large wooden bridge was constructed over the river at Perth.”

The particulars which Mr Adamson relates were not of his own invention. They were agreeable to the current tradition. And he, or the speaker whom he introduces, says, they were written in an old manuscript; but were slipt, as many other things

things were, out of the records which were more recent. (Muses Threnodie, Muse iii. v. 220—223, 242—317.)

It is not my purpose to affirm that the building of Perth happened exactly in the manner now related. But the particulars are not improbable. The same or other circumstances more remarkable, might have occurred.

One of the remaining parts of the north wall of the town, having been taken down a few years ago, a pretty large brass coin, of “Cæsar Augustus Pontifex Maximus,” was found in it, which has ever since been in the possession of Mr James Ramsay, present Provost of Perth.

The story of an old British temple at Perth, is given by Holinshed. He took it, I presume, from Galfridus Monomutensis, who was bishop of St Asaph in 1151; and whose history is said to have been a translation of what had been written in the Armorican, or Welsh language, by Tisfilio, a bishop in Wales, and son of the Prince of Powis-land. The story, more particularly, is, that long before the time of our Saviour, the son of Regam, second daughter of king Lear, governed the whole island of Britain. He built 3 temples, one to Mars at Perth in Scotland; another to Mercury at Bangor; and a third to Apollo in Cornwall.

An old house of a mean structure, stood on what was reckoned the site of the old temple at Perth. It bore, for ages, the name of “the Kirk, or house in the green,” and belonged to the family of Mercer of Aldie. The late Colonel Mercer, laird of Aldie, took it down about 8 years ago, and built in its stead a modern house. He caused a marble stone to be placed in the front of the new house, bearing the family arms, with this inscription added, “Here stood the house of the “green.”

But a remaining part of the building had been unknown, and was wholly subterraneous. When the masons had dug
about

about 3 feet below the level of the street, they came to 2 flat arches, which they broke through. Under each of these arches, was an apartment of 26 feet in length, and 14 in breadth. The thickness of the walls, which were of large stones, strongly cemented, was 3 feet and a half. Rubbish had filled up the apartments to nearly about 3 feet below the roof. There had been in one of them, a door to the north; and in the other, a door to the south. I have not heard exactly what the depth of the walls was, only in general, that it was not very great.

About two miles up the river, in the parish of Redgorton, which is separated from the parish of Perth, not only by that part of the water of Almond, which runs straight to the Tay, but also by a part of the parish of Tibbermuir, which lies along the south side of the Almond; there seems to have been an out-post, or Roman station, which was probably connected with the winter camp, or the colonial town of Perth.

On a high ground on the north of the Almond, and which the water has been continuing to undermine for many years, Roman urns and pieces of armour have been discovered, which may be considered as indications of a battle having been fought in its neighbourhood, probably not far from the bottom of the Grampian mountains. It is said also, that about a quarter of a mile farther north, in a clear day, when the water is low, the remains of a timber bridge may be seen in the bottom of the river.

This place, however, which was evidently an appendage of Perth, and where no regular town could have ever been built, has received, in contradistinction to Perth, since the days of Hector Boece, the name of Bertha.

It is not to be supposed that the natives of the country would affix to the town the Latin name *Victoria*. It might have recalled to their minds, perhaps, some signal victory

over them, which had given occasion to the name. But they might make use of a word in their own language, such as Bertha, to signify that the town appeared to them an illustrious piece of work.

Other occasions of the name may be conjectured. Perhaps the Goddess Victoria was by the Romans worshipped in a particular manner at Perth. Or, perhaps the Victorian legion might have a principal residence there, either while Agricola was governor, or in the next century, when the Romans were again on the north side of the Forth, and continued there 30 years.

§ 3. *The name St. Johnston.*

The Picts, after they were converted to the Christian religion, or the Scots, after their king had succeeded to the Pictish throne, consecrated the church and bridge of Perth to St John Baptist, whom they seem also to have chosen tutelary saint of the town. In process of time many persons gave to the town the name of St Johnston. But it was never so called in any of the public writs, nor by the inhabitants in general.

§ 4. *Seals, or Armorial Bearings of the Town.*

A common seal belonged to the Burgh of Perth, in the reign of Alexander II, and perhaps long before. I have seen no copy of it, and therefore know not whether it was the same which was afterwards used.

Many impressions of the seal, which was used from about the year 1400, are appended to charters which belonged to the religious houses at Perth. On the obverse, it represented the decollation of St John Baptist; Salome standing by with a platter in her hand, to receive the head. On the reverse, it represented the same saint inshrined; and a number of priests, or other persons, kneeling before him.

The

The legend round both sides, *S. Communitatis ville Sancti Johannis Baptiste de Berth*. The seal of the community of the town of St John Baptist of Berth.

The superstitious seal was laid aside after the reformation of religion. The seal since used, refers to the Roman origin of the town. It bears a golden eagle displayed, viz. an eagle of the double or imperial kind; the two heads looking different ways. A red escutcheon, charged with the Holy Lamb, passant, carrying the banner of St Andrew within a silver double tressure, surmounts the breast of the eagle. The legend, at the bottom, *Pro Rege, Lege, et Grege*. "For the King, the Law, and the People."

Besides the large or common seal, a smaller one is made use of on some occasions. It bears a single eagle, wholly surmounted, except the head and wings, with an escutcheon charged as the other. The surrounding inscription is, *Sigillum secretum Burgi de Perth*.

§ 5. *Situation of the Town.*

Though that district of the county, in which Perth is situated, be commonly described as lying on the south side of the Tay; yet, according to the turn which the river takes, the town may be said to be situated on the west side. The principal streets from the river run nearly from east to west. Along the opposite bank, is the town of Bridge-end; the church and village of Kinnoul, and a number of villas with gardens, or pleasure grounds, which extend a great way.

The town divides a very spacious plain, into what are called the north and south Inches; each of which measures about a mile and a half in circumference. They are called Inches, or Islands, because they have the Tay on the east, and on the other sides, the branches of a canal which comes

from the Almond, and which brings down a large proportion of that small river to Perth.

The stone barrier at the head of the canal, which divides the water of the Almond, was most probably an invention and work of the Romans. The name which it bears, is *Louis-wark*; which, according to Shaw's *Gaelic Dictionary*, means water-work.

There are some documents of this canal having been in existence before the time of Malcom Canmore; who, after the death of Macbeath, ascended the throne in 1057. Without it, there could have been no supply of water for the mills which were then at Perth. It still supplies the mills, and now also the wells with water, and formerly filled the ditches when the town was fortified.

The Inches are used partly for pasturing cattle belonging to the inhabitants, and partly for walking and other recreations. Also, as in the *Campus Martius*, military men perform their exercise there. Both the Inches are furnished with benches, and the south Inch is surrounded by an avenue of trees of different kinds. A poet, or a painter, might find full scope in either of those Inches, to indulge his particular genius.

To the west the prospect is bounded, at about a mile's distance, by what is called the Moor. That part of it which belongs to Perth, contains a stone quarry, and is covered with an extensive wood, which is of great value to the public revenue of the town.

The tide, from the German ocean, flows up the river by the south side of the Carse of Gowrie, and reaches, though not so full, about two miles above Perth. The spring or high tides bring ships, considerably above 100 tons burthen, close to the shores of the town.

Sir Robert Sibbald, who had carefully traced the Roman roads or military streets in this part of the country, describes

4 which led to Perth. (Military Ways, p. 16.) One from Aberdour and Newbigging, through the town of Kinross to Perth. A second, from the North Ferry, through the town of Kinross to Perth. A third, from the bridge of Stirling, through the town of Dumblane, and the Roman camp at Ardoch, to Perth. A fourth, from Abernethy to Perth.

At present, there are turnpike roads from all quarters; which, together with the conveniency of the bridge, attract a multitude of travellers.

§ 6. *A Mistake to be rectified in former Histories.*

Hector Boethius, or Boece, a native of Dundee, and Principal of the King's College of old Aberdeen, began, as he himself tells us, to write a history of Scotland in 1525, and finished it in April, 1526. It was printed at Paris, in 1526, by Jodocus Badius, who complimented him in some Latin verses, on his having transferred into his history, in the behalf of the Scots, "the grace, and milky eloquence of Livy."

Boece's history was held, for a time, in great reputation. It was closely followed by Buchanan and others. But how he has amplified, with fabulous circumstances, many of the events mentioned in Fordun's Chronicle, which was evidently his text book, has been illustrated, with a peculiar degree of spirit, by the late Sir David Dalrymple, Lord Hailes, in his "Annals of Scotland," and in some of his smaller pieces. At present, no credit is given to Boece, but in so far as his assertions are supported by better testimony.

Among his other amplifications of what Fordun has related, is his tragical story of the desolation of Perth by water, in the year 1210, (Lib. 13. Fol. 288. first edition.)

It would be tedious to quote the whole passage, which is a pretty long one. What I find most fault with in it, is his as-

sertion, that Perth is not the ancient Bertha, but a new city, built in another place by King William, after Bertha had been destroyed: though he grants that the Burrow-privilege of the old city was transferred to the new.

Fordun wrote his history long before the time of Boece. Major's history was printed in 1521. Both these authors relate, that an inundation happened at Perth, in 1210. But their relations of it were very different from that which was afterwards given by Boece.

The following account of it comprehends all the particulars mentioned by Fordun and Major.

“ In the year 1210, and, as some would have it, about the
“ time of the feast of St Michael, there happened such a
“ great fall of rain, as made the brooks and rivers exceed
“ their usual channels, and carry off much of the harvest
“ crop from the fields.

“ The water of Tay, with the water of Almond, being
“ swelled by the increasing rain, and by a spring tide from
“ the sea, passed through a great part of that town, which of
“ old, was called Bertha, now also Perth, in Scotland. In
“ consequence of a mound or rampart giving way, not only
“ some houses, but also the large bridge of St John, with an
“ ancient chapel, were overthrown.

“ William the King, David Earl of Huntington the King's
“ brother, Alexander the King's Son, with some of the prin-
“ cipal nobility, went into a boat, and sailed quickly out of
“ the town, otherwise possibly they might have perished.
“ Of the burghesses, and other persons of both sexes, some
“ went into boats, and others fled, for safety, to the galleries
“ or balconies which were over their houses.”

I have to add to this description, that it is full sea or tide at Perth, about 2 hours 18 minutes after the moon's southing. According to a calculation made by a learned gentleman, the
spring

spring tides, on Monday, October 4th, 1210, happened at Perth, 18 minutes past 2 in the morning; and 42 minutes past 2 in the afternoon.

It may be satisfactory to give the progress of the king, as it may be traced in Fordun's history. In summer 1210, the king who was then aged and infirm, went to amuse himself in the province of Moray, where the place of his birth was. In his return, he fell sick at Kintore, a town in the district of Garioch, and county of Aberdeen. He did not recover till September 21st, and then was so well, as to come to Forfar; where he remained a little time. From thence he came to Perth, being on his way to Stirling, where he was to hold a parliament, or a great council as Fordun calls it, a short while after Michaelmas.

The usual residence of the king, when at Perth, before the Dominican Monastery was built, was the old castle which stood on the north side of the town, where the street now is; which for more than 400 years has been called by the name of the Castle Gavel.

It was noticed under a former head, that a large portion of the water of the Almond is conveyed by the aqueduct to Perth. Even now, since the streets have been considerably raised, when any inundation happens, the water of that smaller river, as well as the water of the Tay, may be said to flow in great abundance in some parts of the town.

It was to guard the town against dangerous inundations, that the streets were raised from time to time. Old streets, well paved, are found 6, 8, or 10 feet below the present surface. Subterraneous apartments sometimes have been discovered. Within these 12 years, some masons came to what they reckoned to have been a stable or cow-house. They could not, with any certainty, discern the walls, which probably had been originally of turf or clay. But they found 4
stakes,

stakes, and also a manger, wholly and very neatly wrought of the twigs of trees; a kind of work which was much practised by the ancient Britons.

According to the course of natural causes, the bed of the river must also have been considerably raised. An old reverend gentleman, who died a few years ago, in a manuscript history of his parish, in which are some high mountains, wrote as follows:

“The soil washed away by the heavy rains is carried
“down from the high mountains into the streams and ri-
“vers, and by them into the sea; where it subsides, and
“gaining on the sea has made our Carles of Gowrie, Stir-
“ling, and Falkirk. In proof of which, some persons dig-
“ging for coals in the Carse of Falkirk, found a complete
“boat in the clay, 5 fathoms deep; and some other persons,
“digging for a draw-well in Perth, found at 3 fathoms below
“the level of the bottom of the river Tay, tripods or chairs,
“and some other pieces of household furniture.”

Walter Goodall, in his edition of Fordun's *Scoti-Chronicon*, in the year 1759, thought it necessary, for the vindication of the antiquities of Perth, to subjoin to the account which Fordun gives, (vol. i. p. 528.) an annotation from a Latin manuscript in the College of Edinburgh. Of a part of which the following is a translation.

“The author, viz. Fordun, plainly relates these things
“concerning one and the same city. But Hector Boece,
“and George Buchanan his follower, tell a fabulous story
“of an ancient city Bertha, which from thenceforth was
“entirely deserted; and of another, and new city, built in
“another place, by King William, and which was called
“Perth, from a noble person of that name, who contributed
“his lands to the building of the town.”

The annotator thus takes away from Boece's story, that part which relates to the change of the name, and situation of Perth. Lord Hailes, in his Annals, sub anno 1210, takes away the other exceptionable part, wherein Boece says, an infant son of the king and many other persons were drowned.

His Lordship had been induced to retain what related to the change of Perth. He was pleased to inform me, that for once, he had put some confidence in an assertion of Boece, thinking it scarcely possible for Boece to mistake, or venture to write what he knew to be false, concerning a town only 20 miles distant from the place of his birth. But his Lordship did not advert to the disputes about priority, and other such matters; which, in the time of Boece, and near 100 years after, were keenly agitated, sometimes not without bloodshed, between the two very ancient towns of Perth and Dundee.

In support of what the annotator or Fordun has observed,

1. It is certain that the town had the name of Perth, long before the year 1210. There are many hundreds of charters from about the year 1106, to the year 1210, still extant. Any person who will take the trouble of looking into these charters, will find, that whenever there was occasion to mention the town, its name was always written Perth, or Pertht, or, by way of contraction, Pert, the same as afterwards.

There was no noble person who gave his name to Perth; but there were some persons who took their surname from that town. It was a mere local surname, as many others were. Thus, in ancient, as well as in modern writs, persons are mentioned of the following surnames, viz. Stirling, Aberdeen, Abernethy, Dundee, Kirkaldy, Hawick, Musselburgh, and many others of the same kind.

2. It

2. It is certain, that tenements and streets in Perth are described in charters, prior to the year 1210, the same as they afterwards were; which would not have been the case, if the old town had been destroyed.

I crave the indulgence of producing one instance from two charters which belonged to the Abbey of Scone, and which are contained in the old chartulary, preserved in the Advocates Library at Edinburgh. They are not very long. I shall therefore give translations of them, only adding the original words where the tenements and street are described.

I. "CHARTER of WILLIAM the KING, to HENRY BALD, concerning a land in PERTH.

"William, by the Grace of God, King of Scots, to all
"good men of his whole Realm, Clergy and Laity, Greet-
"ing.

"Know all, who are, or shall be, me to have given, and
"consigned, and by this my present charter, to have confirm-
"ed, to Henry Bald, that land in my Burgh of Perth, which
"James the son of Simon, and others, my Provost of Perth,
"have delivered to him according to my precept.

"To wit, that land which is in the front of the street,
"which leads from the church of St John Baptist, to the cas-
"tle of Perth, on the east side, opposite to the house of An-
"drew, the son of Simon. (Illam scilicet, quæ est in fronte
"vici illius, qui tendit de Ecclesia Sancti Johannis Baptisti,
"usque ad Castellum de Pert, ex orientali parte, contra do-
"mum Andreæ filii Simonis.)

"To be held to him and his heirs, of me and my heirs, in
"fee and heritage, freely, peaceably, fully and honourably.
"Rendering thence yearly to my Chamberlain one pound of
"pepper at the feast of St Michael.

"Witnesses,

“ Witneſſes, Hugh Chancellor; Philip de Valliams my
 “ Chamberlain; Malcolm Son of Earl Duncan; William de
 “ Hay; Alexander Sheriff of Stirling; Roger de Mortimer;
 “ Philip de Lundin; at Perth, 14th day of April.”

To aſcertain the year in which this charter was granted,
 it is neceſſary to make the following remarks concerning the
 witneſſes.

1. Philip de Valliams was made great Chamberlain, about
 the year 1180. But he continued in that office about 33
 years.

2. Duncan M'Duff, the father of Malcolm Earl of Fife,
 died in 1203.

3. William de Hay died before the year 1199.

4. Hugh Roxburgh, Biſhop of Glaſgow, was made Chan-
 cellor of Scotland in 1189, and died, Ides of July, 1199.

The above charter to Henry Bald muſt therefore have
 been granted betwixt the years 1189, and 1199.

II. “ CHARTER by HENRY BALD Goldſmith, to the Monaf-
 “ tery at SCONE.”

“ To all, who ſhall ſee or hear theſe letters, Henry Bald,
 “ Goldſmith of Perth, wiſhes ſalvation.

“ Know all of you, me to have given and conſigned, and
 “ by this my preſent charter, to have confirmed, to God, and
 “ to the church of the Holy Trinity, and of St Michael of
 “ Scone; and to the abbot and canons ſerving God, and to
 “ ſerve him there; in pure and perpetual alms, my two booths,
 “ with the gallery placed above them, within the burgh of
 “ Perth; in that land, which William, of pious memory,
 “ King of Scots, granted to me for my homage and ſervice.
 “ (Duas bothas meas, cum ſolario ſuperpoſito, in burgo de

“ Pert; in terra illa quam Gulielmus, piæ memoriæ, Rex
 “ Scotorum, mihi dedit pro homagio et servitio meo.)

“ To wit, these two booths which are in the front of the
 “ street, which leads from the church of St John Baptist, to-
 “ wards the castle of Perth, on the east side, opposite to the
 “ house of Andrew, the son of Simon; those two booths,
 “ to wit, which are towards the north; (scilicet, illas duas
 “ bothas, quæ sunt in fronte vici illius, qui tendit de Ecclesia
 “ Sancti Johannis Baptisti, versus Castellum de Pert, in ori-
 “ entali parte, contra domum Andreæ filii Simonis; (videli-
 “ cet, illas duas bothas versus aquilonem.)

“ To be held and retained for ever, freely, peaceably, fully,
 “ and honourably; rendering thence yearly to the Cham-
 “ berlain of our Sovereign Lord, King of Scots, one pound
 “ of pepper at the feast of St Michael, in lieu of all service;
 “ and to the Monks of Cupar yearly, one half stone of wax,
 “ at the purification of the Blessed Mary, in name of alms.

“ And that this my donation may be ratified and in contra-
 “ vertible, I have confirmed this present page by my seal.
 “ And as my seal is not authentic, the common seal of the
 “ Burgh of Perth is, at my desire, appended.

“ Witneses, Walter de Newton, and Henry de Abirnitie,
 “ Knights; Galfrid de Perth, Clerk of our Lord the King;
 “ Henry his Son; Galfrid Provost of Perth; Richard de
 “ Leycester; John, Son of Lenna; David Jape; William de
 “ Dundee; James, Son of James Son of Hutred; William
 “ Sper; Richard de Lenna; and many others.”

The date of this Charter cannot easily be ascertained by the names of the witnesses. William, King of Scots, is mentioned as dead. He died, December 4th 1214, and was succeeded by his Son Alexander II. who died July 8th 1249. It is ranked in the chartulary, among those charters which were granted in the reign of Alexander II. It could not be

granted very late in that reign; because Henry Bald, and Andrew the Son of Simon, who were living before the year 1199, were still alive. But Henry Bald, who had become a Goldsmith, or Banker as the term anciently implied, seems to have been old, and preparing for death, by giving two of his shops in his tenement in Perth, as alms to the Monastery.

Every one who compares these two charters, may see that no alteration of the town had taken place, in the interval betwixt the year 1199, and probably the middle of the reign of Alexander II.

3. The original charter which King William granted to the town of Perth, dated at Stirling, on the Lord's day, October 10th, and which by the names of the witnesses, is ascertained to have been in the year 1210, is still extant.

A translation has been circulated among some of the Burghesses. It does not make the smallest mention of any change of the name, or of the situation of the town, which it certainly would have done, if any such changes had happened. The King confirms the privileges which the burgh enjoyed in the time of his grandfather King David, who died in 1153, and adds some new privileges.

He was holding his great council, or Parliament at Stirling, which Fordun says, was to meet shortly after Michaelmas in 1210. The public writs were dated, as if granted on the day of the commencement of the Parliament. The King, that he might be enabled to fulfil his treaty with King John of England, craved, and obtained a subsidy of 16000 merks; of which very large sum in those days the Barons agreed to pay 10,000, and the Burrows 6000. On that occasion, the Burrow of Perth seems to have been rewarded with a very clear and particular charter of privileges.

4. Still more to confute the story of Boece, there is a charter by Walter, son of Alan, one of the ancestors of the Lords

of Ruthven, to the abbey of Scone. It appears from the names of some of the witnesses, that it was granted in or before the year 1200. In this charter, the situation of Perth at the time is marked beyond all doubt, by a description of the road which led from Perth to Tibbermuir.

“ I grant,” says the above named donor, “ and by this my
“ charter, have confirmed to God, and to the church of the
“ Holy Trinity, and of St Michael of Scone, and to the ca-
“ nons serving God, and to serve him there, that whole land
“ which Suane the son of Thone my grandfather, gave to
“ them in Tibbermore, according to its marches, viz. From
“ the King’s well on the street which comes from Perth, and
“ leads to the foresaid village.” (Scilicet, a fonte Regis, qui
est super stratam quæ venit de Pert, et tendit in villam præ-
fatam.)

The King’s well, is about 2 miles west from Perth, and in the straight road to Tibbermuir. If Perth had then been situated 2 miles up the river, and on the north of the Almond, the road from it to Tibbermuir would have had a quite different direction, a great way to the north and west of the King’s well.

I regret that I should take up so much room in Sir John Sinclair’s Publication. But justice to the town seems to require it. In almost all historical writings, or books of travels, in which Perth is described, Boece’s story is retailed, or alluded to; so that no real history of Perth can be given, till that fable be exploded.

It is surprising, that during the course of 270 years, no person seems to have been at sufficient pains, to examine what Boece had said of Perth, by comparing it with authentic records; or at least, that no person who had done so, was such a warm friend to truth and to the antiquities of Perth,

as

as to make public the particulars of the evidence on which the story is confuted.

Sir Robert Sibbald was much perplexed, in his treatise on "the Roman ports on the south side of the Tay." He found evidence that the Romans had a station, or colonial town at Perth. But he had not taken the opportunities of fully confuting what Boece had said. Therefore, he supposes, that when Bertha was destroyed, the new town of Perth was built where the ruins of the old Roman station were.

But it would have been better to have had recourse to his favourite hypothesis of the winter and summer camps; and to have supposed, that the station in the parish of Redgorton, 2 miles above Perth, had been the summer camp, and an appendage of the colonial town.

I beg leave just to observe, that the kingdom was divided into parishes, long before the time of King William the Lion. Malcolm Canmore gave, and afterwards his successors confirmed, to the abbey of Dumfermling, the church and parsonage tithes of the town and parish of Perth. I have seen the old chartulary of that abbey. The abbot and Monks continued to receive the tithes, and to regulate what concerned the church of Perth; but they never had any thing to do with the church and tithes of the parish of Redgorton.

§ 7. *Boundaries and Extent of the Parish.*

Excepting a part of the ground west from the town, where there is an encroachment from the parish of Tibbermuir, the parish of Perth bears, in its figure, some resemblance to a semi-circle; the river of Tay, on the east, forming the diameter. The length, from south to north, is about 4 miles; and the greatest breadth, from east to west, is about 3 miles. The town is situated nearer to the north, than to the other extremity of the parish.

The

The Tay separates the parish of Perth from the opposite parishes of Scone, Kinnoul, and Kinfauns. On the north, it is bounded by the parish of Tibbermuir. On the west, by the parishes of Tibbermuir, and Aberdalgie. On the south, by the parishes of Forteviot, and Dunbarny. And on the south east, by the parish of Rynd.

§ 8. *Heritors.*

The heritors in the country part of the parish, are the Earl of Kinnoul, Lord Gray, Sir Thomas Moncrief, the heirs of Oliphant of Bachilton, Mr Marshall of Hillcairnie, Dr Arnot, Colonel Mark Wood, M. P. Mr Anderson of Blackfriars; the town of Perth, King James VI.'s Hospital of Perth; Glover Incorporation; Taylor Incorporation; Robertson and company.

The yearly rent of the lands, in the country part of the parish, is reckoned to amount to about £. 6000.

§ 9. *Soil, and Cultivation.*

The soil is partly loam, and partly clay. The lands being in the neighbourhood of a populous town, and of a port to which great quantities of lime are conveyed, are generally so well cultivated, as to yield rich crops.

§ 10. *Remarkable Villages.*

The remarkable villages, are the castle of Balhousie, an ancient seat of the Earls of Kinnoul. The castle of Pittheveles, an ancient seat of the Lords of Oliphant. Feu-house, a seat belonging to Mr Marshall of Hillcairney.

The old castle which belonged to Ross of Craigie, has long been demolished; but in the site of it, there is a pleasant and pretty populous village. The village of Craigie-mill, where a great brewerie is established, is also populous.

An

An extensive bleachfield has long been established, upon the canal from the Almond, at the village of Tulloch, which has thereby become considerable. Muirton of Balhousie, is the largest and most populous of any of the villages.

I forbear to mention the suburbs, or the streets and portions of land which lie on the outside of the ancient line of the walls of the town. It is difficult in some instances to determine which of them are not, and which of them are really comprehended in the royalty.

The parish of Perth is so much occupied, and so much surrounded through a great extent of the country, with entailed estates, that the merchants, who have succeeded in trade, are discouraged from laying out their money in the purchase of lands. Some of them have been obliged to purchase estates at a considerable distance.

§ 11. Trade.

In the early times Perth was a place of great trade. Alexander Necham, an English writer, who read lectures at Paris in 1180, was made Abbot of Exeter in 1215, and died in 1227, takes notice of Perth in the following distich, quoted in Camden's Britannia.

“ Transis ample Tai, per rura, per oppida, per Perth.

“ Regnum sustentant illius urbis opes.”

Thus Englished in Bishop Gibson's Translation of Camden's Book.

“ Great Tay through Perth, through towns, through country flies.

“ Perth the whole Kingdom with her wealth supplies.”

The literal version is, “ Go on great Tay, through fields, through towns, through Perth. The wealth of that city supports the kingdom.”

An

An extensive commerce was carried on, during many ages, between Perth and the Netherlands. The merchants of Perth visited in their own ships, the Hanse towns. And it is a part of the eulogium conferred on Alexander III. who died in 1286, that he devised successful measures for securing the trading ships of the nation, “against Pirates, and against
“being detained on slight pretences in any of the foreign ports.
“In consequence of the care which he exercised about the
“trade of the kingdom, which for some years, during his
“minority, had been on the decline; multitudes of ships
“soon came from diverse regions, loaded with goods of various kinds, to be exchanged for the commodities of this
“country.” (Fordun, vol. ii. p. 130.)

The German merchants, or Flemings as they were called, very early frequented the port of Perth. And not a few industrious Germans, who wrought in the woollen and linen manufactories, and in staining of cloth, seem to have fixed their abode at Perth, and to have been received as burghesses.

But King William the Lion, following the example of his grandfather King David, put the foreign merchants under a great restriction when they came to Perth with their goods, in a charter which he gave to the town, in the year 1210. And, in that same charter, as a farther discouragement, he granted to his burghesses of Perth, “that they might have
“their own merchant gild, fullers and weavers excepted.”

What seems to have been the political reason of the exception of these two trades, viz. the apprehension of an inundation of foreigners, has long since ceased to exist. The fullers have been admitted members of the Guildry. The weavers have their own incorporation, and the Legislature, so far from being apprehensive of the consequences formerly dreaded, has of late years, for the encouragement of manufactures, allowed that weavers may exercise their trade freely in all
the

the burroughs, though such of them as have been already incorporated, are not obliged to receive any others into their legally constituted society, but on certain conditions.

It is necessary, in this Statistical Account, to pass over the different turns which trade has taken in Perth, and to offer a view of what may be considered as its present state. In this, I have been assisted by others, and shall insert what I have received from them.

The Literary and Antiquarian Society of Perth nominated a number of gentlemen, who are members of the society, and who are well acquainted with trade, to make a statement of the articles comprehended in the district of the town, the custom-house, and linen stamp-office, which may be called the trade of the place. The following report was given in, subscribed by Mr John Young, as Chairman of the committee, who had taken a great deal of trouble in collecting the materials. The report was dated June 10th, 1794, with a note added, which bore that the several articles were not over-rated; but rather, if there was any error, under-rated.

“Manufactures.—The staple manufacture of Perth is linen; and of late, a considerable quantity of cotton-cloth. There are above 1500 looms employed in the town and suburbs; which manufacture of linen and cottons, annually, about L. 100,000 sterling value. Besides this, there is, at least L. 120,000 sterling more in value of linen, purchased in the Perth market by the dealers. These goods are wove in the surrounding country, and all pass through the hands of the traders in Perth; so that the total of the linen and cotton manufactures, amounts to about L. 220,000 sterling. The different fabrics, and the general purposes to which they are applied, together with their extent, may be arranged as follows:

1. Brown and white fine threaded linens, denominated *Silestias*, chiefly printed for handkerchiefs; with *Britannias*, *Kentings*, &c. for export trade, may be estimated above, L. 120,000.
These articles Perth has been long famed for manufacturing.
 2. Stout Holland sheetings of various breadths; with $\frac{7}{8}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$ Holland shirting, and a few long lawns, above, - - - 12,000
 3. Four-fourths wide brown and white country linen, chiefly used for hat-linings, buckrams, &c. Brown Hollands, Hessians, pack-sheetings, and other coarse fabrics, manufactured in the neighbourhood; including soldiers shirtings, with a few coarse sheetings, and Osnaburgs purchased. - - - 20,000
 4. Five-fourths wide umbrella linens, and linens for window blinds, &c. above - - - 8,000
 5. The cotton manufacture was rapidly extending; but met with a severe check last summer, by a reduction of the value of goods manufactured, and has not yet recovered its former vigour. The shock did not affect the linen manufactures in a similar degree. Shawl-cloths, calicoes and muslins, with a very few pulicate handkerchiefs, are produced from cotton-yarn, which were estimated within bounds, at L. 80,000 sterling *per annum*; but owing to the late check in the market, shall only be extended to 60,000
- Total amount of the linen and cotton-trade, which the committee are confident is under-rated. - - - L. 220,000

Printing

Printing Works.—There are 3 printing-works in this neighbourhood, some of them only lately established, carried on by companies residing in Perth, viz.

Ruthven print-field, in the barony of Huntingtower, upon the property of the Duke of Athole, carried on by Young, Ross, Richardson, and Caw.

Cromwell-park, established on the grounds of Thomas Graham, Esq. of Balgowan, Member of Parliament for the county of Perth, under the firm of Meliss and Co.

And Tulloch print field in the vicinity, on the property of the Earl of Kinnoul, carried on by Sandeman Lindsay, and Co.

These works at present may be estimated to do business, at least to the extent of L. 80,000 sterling *per annum*, and on the increase, being mostly new establishments.

The produce of these works, is shipped at Perth, chiefly for the London market. The printers here have a full command of the article of Silesia linen for handkerchief printing, being the staple manufacture of the town and neighbourhood; they likewise supply part of the country demand, in England and Scotland.

Cotton-Works.—At Stanly, there is a considerable cotton-mill for spinning twist, by water, the first that was established in the neighbourhood; in which Sir Richard Arkwright interested himself much in the outset, George Dempster, Esq. and company. The proprietors have lately built another mill, which will probably be employed soon in spinning *linen-yarn* by water.

There is also a cotton-work for spinning twist, by water, at Cromwell-park, under the firm of Wright, Meliss, and company; and a smaller one at Stormont bleach-field, belonging to Thomas and John Barland. The operation of

all these will produce above L. 30,000 sterling annually, and they are on the increase, being new establishments.

There is cotton spun in the town, and at Luncarty bleach-field, by water, for wefts and other purposes, such as the manufacture of stockings, &c. to the extent of L. 5000 ster. *per annum*, only lately begun.

Bleachfields.—There are 4 public bleachfields in this neighbourhood, that whiten cloth for the country round, and for the manufacturers in the principal towns of Scotland, and even some of them have quantities of cloth from England to bleach.

At Luncarty bleachfield, they whiten annually on an average, 600,000 yards of linen, $\frac{2}{3}$ ds of which may be called low priced linens, with diaper and table linens, from Dumfermline, Edinburgh, Perth, &c.; and the other third consists of fine linens and sheetings. This work is carried on by Sandeman, Turnbull, and Co. and is on the ground of Thomas Graham, Esq. of Balgowan. The same company have another bleachfield at Tulloch, where they whiten about 300,000 yards annually of linen for the public. They are chiefly low priced linens.

At Huntingtower bleach-field, (upon the Duke of Athole's estate,) carried on by Richardson and Co. Thomas Young manager, there are fully 600,000 yards of linen bleached annually, about $\frac{2}{3}$ ds of which, are low priced goods, the other third consists of diaper and fine goods.

At Stormont bleach-field, carried on by Thomas and John Barland, on the ground of the Earl of Mansfield, they whiten to the extent of 450,000 yards annually; $\frac{2}{3}$ ds Silecias, Britannias, shirtings, &c. and the other third Diaper and fine goods.

At

At both Luncarty and Huntingtower, there is sometimes in the throng of the season, above 60 Scots acres at each work covered with linens.

Leather Manufacture.—The manufacture of shoes and boots is carried on here with great nicety, to the extent of at least L. 8000 *per annum*, chiefly shipped for the London market.

They prepare at the tan-works, from 4 to 5000 hides, and about 500 dozen calf skins annually; and do business in tanning to the extent of L. 10,000 sterling yearly.

Paper Mills.—There are 3 mills for the manufacture of paper in this neighbourhood, which contain at present 6 vatts; but are constructed, so as to admit of 9.

These mills produce at present, from 9 to 10,000 reams of writing and printing paper; and from 7 to 8000 blue; cartridge, brown, grey, and other packing papers, value above L. 8000 sterling *per annum*; and increasing in value in proportion to the quantity of *fine paper* manufactured. This manufactory, though only lately taken up by Morison and Lindsay of this town, is allowed to produce uncommonly fine writing paper, which is chiefly sent to the London market.

Lintseed Oil.—The crushing of lintseed into oil, has been a trade in this town and neighbourhood for many years past; but it is now on the decline: the first mill erected in Scotland for the above purpose, was at Huntingtower about 2 miles from this town.

Salmon Fishings.—The salmon fishery on the Tay is very extensive; and the rent considerably increased of late. It may be stated at L. 7000 sterling *per annum*; of which the community of Perth draws above L. 1000 sterling of rent.

The

The fishing begins on the 11th of December, and is given up on the 26th of August.

The spring and part of the summer fish go fresh, packed in ice, to the London market; and when plentiful in warm weather, they are pickled for the same market. No town in Scotland is better appointed for intercourse with London than Perth, as every 4 days, at least during the fishing season, a smack sails, and in general, makes the passage up within the week, if the weather be any way favourable; and the passage to London has often been performed within 60 hours; the vessels return with porter, cheese, groceries, and other goods, for the consumption of the town, and supply of an extensive rising country. There are 7 vessels constantly employed in the trade.

Mills.—The mills belonging to the community or burrough of Perth, are rented by Ramsay, Whittel and Co. at about L. 800 sterling *per annum*.

The leading article they manufacture is wheat into flour; about two thirds of which may be supposed on their own account, for the supply of the town and neighbourhood; besides, quantities are occasionally shipped to the different towns of Scotland. The other third may be stated as manufactured at these mills by the bakers in town, for which they pay multure to the company at a fixed rate, agreeable to the old charter of the burrough. The quantity ground may be estimated upon an average, at 60 bolls per day. They also grind at these town mills, malt, bear, oats, and pease; and manufacture barley to a considerable amount. But the article of malt is greatly diminished since the late Act of Parliament, which prohibited the working of the small stills in this district, the line being fixed to the northward of Perth.

This

This company likewise rent from Lord Kinnoul the Bal-housie flour and meal mill adjacent, where they also manufacture considerable quantities of flour and oat meal.

The flour mill of Pitcairn in this neighbourhood, parish of Redgorton, the property of Lord Methven, is employed by Mr James Ray, the granaries of which are likewise in Perth; it is supposed to manufacture at least 5000 bolls of wheat into flour at an average annually, which is mostly consumed in Perth and its neighbourhood.

Foreign Trade.—The exports from this to foreign parts are so very inconsiderable, as not to merit any statement.

The imports from foreign countries, may be computed above L. 30,000 sterling *per annum*, of which above L. 9000 value may be reckoned for flax and flax-feed. There are considerable quantities of wood, iron, and wine imported, and occasionally some grain.

The following statement from the custom house books, for an average of 5 years, will shew the flax and lint-feed trade.

Imported from 10th October 1783, to 10th October 1788.
Say a quantity which leaves an average importation for each year of

48 Tons of flax from Holland.

23 Do from other ports.

71 Tons of flax, and 1177 hhds. of lintseed.

at an average of 5 years, from 10th October 1788, to 10th October 1793, there were annually imported,

63 Tons of flax from Holland.

15 Do. from other ports.

78 Tons of flax, and 1671 hhds. of lintseed.

Casting

Coasting Trade.—It appears, that there were 209 vessels cleared out in the year 1781, and in the year 1791, there were 319 vessels.

Arrivals of Coasters Inwards;

In 1781———518 vessels.

And in 1791———887 Do.

the difference of which chiefly arises by arrivals of vessels with lime-stone, of which in

1781 there were only 88 vessels,

And in 1791 there were no less than 360 do.

which shews the increasing improvements in agriculture.”

I was likewise favoured with the following particulars, relating to the glover incorporation and their trade, in a letter from Mr Robert Gray, glover in Perth, dated November 27th 1794.

“The skinners and glovers are one incorporation. There are about 70 freemen members of it; not all operative indeed; any thing considerable in the business, is in a few hands. Excepting the Guildry, they are possessed of a larger fund for their poor, than any other incorporation in Perth.

This incorporation has a very convenient skinner-work, and dress about 30,000 sheep and slaughtered lamb-skins yearly. More than 20,000 of these, are of the sheep and lambs killed in the town. The rest are from the neighbouring country, and from the Highlands. Most of them are sent to the London market, and are much esteemed for their cleanness from grease, and for their fineness of grain.

There are besides these, a good many small and flink kid, and *mert* lamb-skins dressed here, which are got from the north-west of Scotland. But kids having become scarce from the breed of goats not being encouraged in the Highlands, on

account of the plantations, they have of late been in part supplied with Italian kid, and lamb skins for their glove manufactory; and they have a plentiful supply of *mort* lamb-skins for that purpose, from the south of Scotland; and particularly from the country bordering on the river Tweed.

The glovers here have been long famous for making good gloves. The quantity manufactured yearly, is from 2 to 3000 dozen of pairs, and are chiefly for home consumption."

I have also been favoured by Mr James Morison, with the following account of the book-trade carried on by him and his brother. He says, in a letter dated June 10th 1794, "Since January last, we have printed about 14,000 volumes. "So that you may safely state, that except Edinburgh and "Glasgow, Perth is the only town in Scotland where books "are printed to any extent; and that there are generally "from 20 to 30,000 volumes printed here annually."

Since the above date, the University of St Andrew's have appointed the Morisons in Perth to be their printers.

§ 12. *Manners.*

I see nothing in the manners of the inhabitants of Perth to distinguish them, in any very great degree, from the manners of the inhabitants of such other towns, as are said, in the modern sense of the expression, to be in an improved state. There are persons I hope in all places, who deserve much to be commended, and there are others who need a reformation.

An increase of trade brings along with it an increase of wealth to the merchants, and of day's wages to the operative people: Its natural consequence, therefore, is, a manner of living scarcely known in the former times.

It is too much the case with the generality of mankind, that their piety does not increase, in equal proportion to their

wealth; whereas the bounties of the Divine Providence, when they are liberally conferred, ought to excite in the persons who receive them, a disposition to make greater and more devout returns of gratitude to God.

Some of the public amusements common in other places, are to be found in Perth. Among these, particular notice may be taken of the amusements of the theatre. Players occasionally come to Perth, and sometimes they remain very long.

It is generally acknowledged, that many of the plays, commonly acted, have an immoral tendency; and the political consequence of such a captivating amusement, frequently introduced in a commercial city, cannot be a good one.

It may afford what may be reckoned a piece of curious information, to relate how plays were regulated in Perth, more than 200 years ago. It appears from the old records, that a company of players were in Perth, June 3d, 1589. In obedience to an act of the General Assembly, which had been made in the year 1574—5, they applied to the consistory of the church for a licence, and shewed a copy of the play, which they proposed to exhibit.

The words of the record, some of them a little modernised, are, “Perth, June 3d, 1589, The minister and elders give
“licence to play the play, with conditions that no swearing,
“banning, nor one scurrility shall be spoken, which would
“be a scandal to our religion which we profess, and for an
“evil example unto others. Also, that nothing shall be ad-
“ded to what is in the register of the play itself. If any one
“who plays shall do in the contrary, he shall be warded, and
“make his public repentance.” That is, he was to be imprisoned, and afterwards to appear in the church to be rebuked in the public place of repentance.

Guthry,

Guthry, in his History of Scotland, when speaking of a company of English players, who came to Scotland in the year 1599, says, "I have great reason to think that Shakespeare was one of the number." That actor and writer of plays, most probably, began his excursions before the year 1589. If therefore they were English actors who were at Perth that year, he might perhaps be one of them.

In the record, the minister and elders speak of the actors as being all of them men. For it was not till some time after the restoration of King Charles II. that women appeared upon the stage. No doubt, if some restrictions, similar to those in the record were now in use, a reformation of the stage might be expected.

There are no hackney coaches in Perth, but many post-chaises, which are often used as such coaches are in the larger towns. There are some persons who keep carriages of their own; and still a greater number who keep men-servants in livery, as being suitable to the stile of living which they are able to support.

There are great taverns, and a coffee-room; but there are no gaming-houses that I know of, nor any persons who seem to make gaming a trade. The opulent inhabitants live genteely, and are cautious not to exceed in their expences. In the year 1793, when there were many failures in other places, there was not one of any consequence in Perth. It has often been noticed, as what is honourable to Perth, that those of the better rank, set a good example, by giving a regular attendance in the churches.

The craftsmen in Perth, were long distinguished by a strict regard to religion, and by the remarkable care which they took in training up their children, their apprentices, and even their journeymen, in good principles and practices. I trust it is still generally the case. I have heard, however, from

some of them, that they do not find it a matter so easy to control their young people, as it formerly was.

I wish to save myself the pain of describing the lamentable effects which happen to some persons, from their being too ready to leave their loom, or their work-shop, to meet in companies, or in clubs, in the ale-houses. This propensity, however, is not peculiar to Perth. It is as much, or perhaps more to be complained of in other places, where the effects also have been more visible.

§ 13. *Population.*

The first full year's list, now extant, of marriages, baptisms, and burials, in Perth, is for the year 1562. The numbers are,

Marriages———70

Baptisms———225

Burials———182

The number of burials, multiplied by 31, makes the number of the inhabitants at that time, to have been 5642.

The number of baptisms, multiplied by 27, makes the number of inhabitants to have been 6075.

With regard to the number of marriages, it is to be observed, that the manners of the people, till long after the reformation of religion, were exceedingly licentious. The Kirk Session was abundantly severe. Its minutes, now extant, commence in May 1577; and it appears, that from that date, to October 7th, 1577, which was the day of the annual election of elders and deacons, 24 persons had been punished for having children otherwise than by lawful marriage. And from October 7th, 1577, to October 6th, 1578, there were 67 such persons punished.

I do not give much credit to the accuracy of the old lists of marriages, baptisms, and burials. Sometimes there are no

persons mentioned for months, and sometimes for whole years. I have known many applications made for extracts from the registers, kept prior to the last 20 years, and often what was sought for, could not be found, which occasioned trouble and loss to some families.

For some years past, a regulation has taken place, which has a good effect. Not only the established ministers, but also some of the dissenting ministers, from a regard to the interest of families, have agreed to require from the parent, who presents a child for baptism, a line from the keeper of the registers, certifying that the birth of the child has been marked.

Such a register of burials as could be depended upon as to accuracy of numbers, only began to be kept February 7th, 1792. In the following statement, therefore, the number of burials can only be given from that period.

In the report sent to Dr Webster, in the year 1755, the number of the inhabitants was reckoned to be 9019. The great increase of inhabitants since that time, will appear from the following statement.

Marriages in the Following Years,

1784	222
1785	166
1786	174
1787	180
1788	164
1789	160
1790	162
1791	176
1792	178
1793	150
1794	166

It

It is to be remarked, that many of the boys who come as apprentices from different parts of the country, leave the town as soon as they have learned their trade.

Also many other young men, whose parents are residing in the town, go to seek their fortune elsewhere in the kingdom, or in foreign parts. The females in general remain, and there are always more unmarried women than batchelors.

Baptisms in the Following Years.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1784	241	171	412
1785	226	238	464
1786	269	217	486
1787	279	237	536
1788	292	238	530
1789	287	227	514
1790	281	258	539
1791	305	264	569
1792	301	273	574
1793	297	274	571
1794	253	269	522

For the reason mentioned in the last remark I made upon the marriages, I do not think that any accurate calculation of the number of inhabitants can be made in multiplying the number of baptisms by 27.

Burials in the Following Years.

From the 7th of February, to the end of December, 1792, died 103 men; 112 women; 173 boys; 174 girls; 28 still born. Total 590.

In the year 1793, died 114 men; 152 women; 181 boys; 147 girls; 47 still born. Total 641.

In

In the year 1794, died 94 men; 141 women; 129 boys; 121 girls; 34 still born. Total 519.

I reckon the burials in the year 1793, to be the average number. Therefore, 641, multiply by 31, makes the number of inhabitants in the town and parish of Perth, to be 19,871; which falls short of the calculation made of the number of inhabitants made in Dundee, 4139.

Formerly, while the town was surrounded with high walls and towers, and water trenches, the air of it might not be very healthful. But it has now for many years been laid quite open. There are new streets both to the north and south, by which a free air circulates through the town.

There are no diseases peculiar to the parish of Perth; and the town enjoys this singularity, that none of its inhabitants are seized with the ague, of which the natural cause may be, that the town is well sheltered from the east wind by the opposite hill of Kinnoul.

I am informed that the aged rector of the grammar school, Mr Alexander Watson, who has for some years retired from business, has frequently said, that during the 40 years in which he taught the school, there were some of the scholars who died by accidents, but only two by disease.

§ 14. *Poor.*

The poor are very numerous. Some of the heritors maintain any who may be upon their estates. The great resort of the poor, from all parts of the country, is to Perth. Some of them make a shift, perhaps for 3 years, to maintain themselves, and then when they fall into distress, or their cart horses die by which they gained their daily bread, they apply to the public for relief.

The inhabitants in general, are charitably disposed. Besides

sides what they give in private to distressed persons or families, they often make large voluntary contributions.

The permanent funds for the maintainance of the poor, are what is given by the Guildrey; by the several incorporations; by the friendly societies, which are now on a surer footing than formerly; by the hospital, the yearly revenue of which, is about L. 320, by the Established Kirk Session, the yearly funds of which, chiefly arising from what is collected at the doors of the churches, amount to about L. 300.

The different kinds of the dissenters, especially the independants, do much for their own poor. And the Magistrates yearly assess the inhabitants to the amount of about L. 300; which, however, is not sufficient to maintain the begging poor, as many of them are still to be seen in the streets, and at the doors of houses.

Provost Alexander Simpson, in the year 1778, mortified L. 100 to the 2 Established Ministers and their assistant, on condition that the yearly interest of it should by them be distributed to poor persons. And in the year 1780, Mrs Smythe of London, mortified L. 100 to the two Established Ministers, for charitable purposes, the yearly interest of which they distribute to the poor.

§ 15. *Civil History.*

It is not my intention in this Statistical Account, to enter into the particulars of the civil history of Perth, I refer to all the histories of Scotland which have been published, in which many occurrences relating to Perth, are taken notice of. It was long reckoned the capital city of Scotland, and now holds priority next to Edinburgh. In several of the public writs, especially in the time of King James VI. it is called the city of Perth, and still bears the title.

The

The Parliament house at Perth still remains, and is converted, as well as it possibly could, into dwelling houses. There remain also the ancient houses of many of the nobility; which are now, in a manner, also modernised; such as the houses of the Bishop of Dunkeld, Earl of Errol, and Earl of Athole. The Earl of Gowrie's house, which was originally built by the Countess of Huntly, about the year 1520, remains: but is not likely to remain much longer. In the year 1746, it was given by the magistrates to William Duke of Cumberland, who sold it to government for the purpose of containing barracks for a company of artillery. It is now, I am told, to be immediately taken down; and new barracks are to be erected fit to contain not only a company of artillery, but also a full regiment of foot.

The citadel, which Oliver Cromwell built in the south Inch, was demolished after the Restoration. Very soon there will not remain the smallest vestige of the entrenchments.

The last of the large towers upon the town wall, called the Spey tower, was taken down about 30 years ago. There is yet a small round tower on a remaining part of the wall, which is called the Monk's tower, and where probably the Monks who had been disorderly, were sometimes confined, in order to do penance. In the last century, the Earl of Kin-noul who was chancellor of Scotland, and possessed Gowrie's house and garden, built the uppermost room of this tower, to be a summer house.

The revenue of the town is considerable, and well managed. The people are ambitious of securing their money in the funds of the public revenue, which may sometimes tempt the managers to contract more debt in the execution of their schemes, than they might otherwise do. Nearly about one half of the members of the town council are deputed by the trades.

The late Earl of Kinnoul exerted himself in obtaining a new bridge to be erected over the Tay, in 1766. Besides what was given by individuals, and by different societies in the town, L. 2000 was given from the public revenue. The magistrates have agreed to join with the county in erecting a bridewell; but the execution of this scheme is necessarily delayed till the times shall be more peaceable.

§ 16. *Ecclesiastical State.*

The parish church of Perth is a large and ancient building, and bears a resemblance to the form of a cross. It is now divided into what are called the east, middle, and west churches. The east church is the most modern part of the building. It contains what was formerly called the choir, and was built about the year 1400, after the old choir had been taken down. It is in the best stile of Gothic architecture, and was lately furnished, in a very elegant manner, with seats and galleries.

The parish church, which had been dedicated to St John Baptist, the manse which belonged to it, and another house in Perth, with the whole tithes of the parish, were given by Malcolm Canmore, and confirmed by his sons Alexander I. and David I. to the abbey of Dumfermling. The abbot and Monks received the rectory tithes, and employed a vicar to officiate at Perth.

At the reformation of religion, the property of the abbey, and of other such religious houses, reverted to the crown.

King James VI. in 1589, at the time of his marriage with Ann of Denmark, conferred on her the lands and other property of the abbey of Dumfermling. This deed was confirmed by Acts of Parliament, in 1593; but it was enacted that she should allow for the officiating clergy, and for some other purposes specified, one third of the benefices of those churches which

which had belonged to the abbey. Her tacksmen of the tithes of Perth, was John Ross, laird of Craigie. He paid a third part for the purposes enacted, and transmitted the overplus to the Queen's Majesty. The Queen, however, soon after the year 1600, gave up her right to the tithes of Perth, and the town council became patrons of the parish.

From the year 1560, to the year 1595, there was only one minister in Perth. From 1595 to 1716, there were always two ministers, and only one parochial church. In the year 1716, the west part of the building, which had been separated from the rest, by a partition wall, was ordered to be seated, and a third minister was called by the magistrates.

The town continued from that time to have 3 ministers, till the year 1740; in which year, one of the 3 ministers, was along with some other brethren deposed by the General Assembly, for following what were denominated divisive courses. The resolution of passing such a sentence had been carried by the casting vote of the Moderator of the Assembly. The brethren who had been deposed, though they were not allowed to preach in the parochial churches, did not cease from the exercise of their ministry, but began what is called the party of Seceders in Scotland, and very soon went farther in their opposition to the church, than they at first intended. The deposed minister in Perth, was much beloved by the people. A great number of the parishioners attached themselves to him, and left the established church, so that the town council thought there was no longer any need of a third minister.

The population of the town, however, continued to increase. In 1771, the choir of the old building was converted into a separate church, and an ordained assistant was provided for the two ministers. But the remedy was not sufficient,

as there was but a small part of the area of the choir which had not before been occupied with seats.

It could not be expected that the public funds of the town were to keep pace with the increase of inhabitants, so as to afford the number of churches necessary. Attempts were made from time to time, to obtain a chapel of ease, the remedy usual in other towns; but they did not succeed. Only in the year 1788, a chapel was built by subscription for the Highlanders in Perth, and a minister provided who should preach to them in the Gaelic Language.

The following is a list of the several churches and religious congregations in Perth.

The people of the established church, who are above two thirds of the inhabitants, have 3 churches, which altogether contain about 2300 persons. They have 2 ministers, and an ordained assistant. The town council also have provided an assistant for the senior minister.

The rectory tithes usually paid, are divided betwixt the 2 ministers. Each of them has yearly from the heritors, 80 bolls oat-meal, and 70 bolls barley; also of vicarage tithes, L. 3 : 14 : 5 $\frac{1}{3}$. The town council pay yearly, out of the seat rents, to each of the 2 ministers, L. 21 : 5 : 6 $\frac{2}{3}$; and have lately added, during their pleasure, L. 20 more. The town council pay yearly, to the ordained assistant L. 100; and during their pleasure to the assistant of the senior minister, L. 50 yearly.

The Gaelic chapel has one minister, whose yearly stipend is L. 50, out of the seat rents of the chapel.

There is a new chapel in Paul's street, which contains about 1000 people, who do not reckon themselves dissenters, but wish their chapel should be received as a chapel of ease to the established church. They have agreed to give to a minister who shall preach to them, L. 100 yearly.

The

The dissenters of different kinds, are as follows :

1. A small congregation of the old Scots Episcopal, which has one minister.
2. An English Episcopal chapel, which has one minister. Several families from the country attend this chapel.
3. A small society of Cameronians, who affect to be called the old Scots Presbyterians. They have no minister resident among them.
4. A small society of Anabaptists. The principles they entertain here, are not very well known.
5. A congregation of Burgher Seceders, which has 2 ministers. The people who attend, are chiefly inhabitants of the town. It ought to be observed, in justice to the senior Burgher minister, that as a brave old man and a christian, he has distinguished himself in opposing the introduction of French principles.
6. A congregation of Antiburgher Seceders, which has 2 ministers. Many of the people, who attend in this congregation, come from the neighbouring parishes.
7. A congregation of what are called Relief people, which has 1 minister. Many of the people who attend in this congregation, are said to come from the neighbouring parishes. A disgust having arisen among some persons in Perth, about the year 1786, on their having been refused a chapel of ease for their accomodation, they applied to the presbytery of Relief, and a church was immediately built, and soon filled with people.
8. A small society of Balchrifty people, who are a species of Independants.
9. A pretty large church of that kind of Independants, who commonly are called Glassites, or Sandemonians. They are not like the English independants in the time of Oliver Cromwell,

well, but upon christian principles, are loyal and peaceable subjects.

A gentleman in Dundee, some years ago, wrote to his correspondent in Perth, that if it were agreeable, an Unitarian minister, who was then residing in Dundee, would come to Perth, to give a sermon and an explanation of his principles. The Perth gentleman very properly replied, there were already too many religions in Perth, and he did not wish to see any more.

It may seem a matter of surprise, that the established church at Perth, should maintain its ground among so many dissenters. I am told there is not a vacant seat to be let in the 3 churches; except, perhaps, some useless seats in the back part of the galleries. The number of communicants considerably exceeds the number of persons for whom the churches are seated. And there are, besides to be provided for, all the young persons, and a great number of others who do not communicate. It is surely therefore of importance, even in a political view, that more houses of worship, under the jurisdiction of the church, should be provided.

I hope the false philosophy, which, for above half a century, has prevailed much in France, and which was adopted by some writers in our own country, the effects of which, now appear, has made few or no converts in Perth. The people in Perth, have been accustomed to the evangelical doctrines explained in the particular standards of our church, and they generally delight in them, as affording them the truest happiness. It is observable, that in as far as the faith of a people alters from these salutary truths, there will ensue all manner of licentious conduct.

I have conversed with some, who evidently had been hurt by reading the visionary and irreligious writings of Thomas Payne. One of hem told me, he thought no reply had been

made to these writings. When I told him many replies had been published, and in which the sophistries of Payne had been detected, he said, he had not money to purchase many books, but would willingly read these replies if he could get them easily. If it be the fashion of the times, or has been the practice of some persons, to put into the hands of the poor people books of a dangerous tendency, surely the friends of our religion, and of our civil constitution, should endeavour to put into their hands, in as liberal a manner, books of a better kind.

§ 17. *Ancient Religious Houses.*

I shall scarcely do any thing more than give a list of the monasteries, churches, and chapels, in the town or suburbs, and in the parish of Perth. There were,

1. The Dominican or Blackfriars monastery, founded by Alexander II. in 1231.

2. The Carmelite or Whitefriars monastery, in the neighbourhood of the town, at Tullilum, which was founded some time during the reign of Alexander III.

3. The Charter house, or Carthusian monastery, founded in 1429, by King James I. and his Queen. This King was murdered in the Blackfriars monastery at Perth, and was interred in the church of the Carthusian monastery; where his Queen also afterwards was interred, and Queen Margaret, mother of James V.

4. The Franciscan or Grayfriars monastery, founded by Lord Oliphant, in 1460.

Besides, the parish church of St John Baptist, and the churches which made a part of the buildings of those 4 monasteries, there were a number of chapels, some of which had hospitals for the poor and sick, and small nunneries annexed to them.

1. Our Lady's chapel which adjoined the old bridge, and was renewed after the former one had been overthrown along with the bridge, in the year 1210.

2. St Laurence chapel, at the castle gavel, the property of which, was given to the Dominican monastery at Perth, by King Robert III. in 1405, that the Friars there might pray for the soul of his mother Elisabeth More, "who was resting" in the church of the predicator Friars of Perth."

3. The chapel of St Ann, mother of the Virgin Mary, situated at the south side of the church-yard. An hospital was annexed to this chapel.

4. St James's chapel, adjoining to the south side of the church.

5. The small chapel of Allareit or Loretta.

6. St Paul's chapel.

7. St Katharine's chapel, to which was annexed an hospital for a certain number of old men.

8. St Magdalen's chapel, with a nunnery annexed. The property of it was given to the Carthusian monastery.

9. The chapel of St Leonard the abbot. It had an hospital and nunnery annexed. Lady Elizabeth Dunbar, who had been privately married to that unfortunate Prince David Duke of Rothsay, and whom he was afterwards obliged to reject, became prioress of this nunnery, in the year 1411. The chapel with its pertinents, was afterwards given to the Carthusian monastery.

All these churches and chapels were filled with altars consecrated to various saints, and each of the altars had one officiating chaplain, or more, when more than one saint was honoured at the same altar; and generally, each of these chaplains had about L. 10 in the year.

In the archives of the parish church of Perth, are the char-
tulary, an accompt-book which the prior kept for some years
previous

previous to the Reformation, and 162 writs or charters which belonged to the Dominican monastery; 20 charters which belonged to the Carmelites or Whitefriars; 92 charters which belonged to the Carthusians; 207 charters which belonged to the chapels and altars.

The acts and canons of the national councils were deposited in the Dominican monastery at Perth, where these councils ordinarily assembled. But they were carried off or destroyed at the Reformation.

It was at Perth that the reformed religion was first publicly avowed. Mr John Knox, attended by many of the chief nobility of the kingdom, preached a sermon in the parish church of Perth, against idolatry, Thursday, May 11th, 1559. After the sermon, one of the priests having given a trifling provocation, a number of the people broke down all the altars and images, in the parish church, and then proceeded to the entire demolition of the monasteries. No vestiges of the monasteries and chapels are now to be seen. Ever since that remarkable æra, a weekly sermon has been preached at Perth, on the Thursday forenoon.

Mr Henry Adamson, in his metrical history, says, that "all the churches and chapels had lofty spires." The only spire now remaining, is that of the parish church. However necessary it might have been reckoned to destroy the cells of the monasteries, their churches, if they had been left standing, would now have been found very useful.

The records of the reformed church have been better kept at Perth, than in most other places. Registers of the transactions of the Kirk Session, with some few interruptions, are extant from the year 1577. The registers of the presbytery of Perth, are extant from the year 1618. And the registers of the synod of Perth and Stirling, are extant from the year 1638.

§ 18. *Various Particulars.*

Having enlarged so much on the preceding heads, I must be more brief in some other articles.

Perth is the county town where the Sheriff-court meets. The Lords of Justiciary hold a court here twice in the year, when they go on their circuits. The Provosts were sheriffs within the town, since the time of King Robert III. They bear also the office of coroner, which office is not much exercised in Scotland.

The inhabitants of Perth, by a decret in 1602, enjoy some distinguishing privileges. One of which is, that they are the only persons, who, in the course of trade, are exempted from paying what is called, "the shore silver at Dundee."

The Perth bank has subsisted for many years; and there is also in Perth a branch of the bank of Scotland.

The grammar school is in great repute. It has a rector and 2 inferior masters. The academy for mathematics, astronomy, and the several parts of education which are proper to fit young men for business, is well attended by students, even from some distant countries, and is in a flourishing state. It has a rector, an assistant, a French master, and a drawing master.

A Literary and Antiquarian Society was founded at Perth, December 16th, 1784. A considerable collection has been made of books, original essays, ancient manuscripts, coins, medals, subjects of natural history, and other materials suitable to the design of the institution. But the society has not yet published any volumes of its transactions.

There is also a general library, which continues to be well furnished with books, chiefly in the line of history.

About 200 of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, are associated as Volunteers, to bear a part in the defence of

our

our constitution, and the maintenance of peace and good order.

The town has been much enlarged of late years, and new streets, in which are excellent houses, have been opened in all quarters. If the nation should prosper, these will probably form at last a new town, on the ground of the Black-friars.

3 Y 2

NUMBER

NUMBER XX

PARISH OF KINNLOUL.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. Mr LEWIS DUNBAR.

Name.

THE name seems to have been the same in ancient and modern times, and is probably of Gaelic origin. Some who understand the Gaelic language are of opinion, that the etymology of the name *Kinnoul*, in ancient writing *Kynnoule*, is *Ceann-Juil*. *Ceann* signifies, head or end, in a literal, and in a more general acceptation, *Principal* or *Chief*: also, *Terminating Point*. *Juil* of which *Juil* is the genetive case, signifies a view or prospect, in allusion, either to the extensive prospect which the situation of the hill of Kinnoul commands, or the great distance at which it may be seen by a traveller; or it may refer to the termination, or rather interruption of that range of hills called the Sidley hills, rising to the southward of Forfar in Angus, and falling from their height, as they stretch in a westerly course along the northern edge of the Carse of Gowrie, till they rise again suddenly in the hill of Kinnoul, which marks the western extremity of the Colonade. But the etymology of names is generally mat-
ter

ter of mere conjecture. From this place the title of the noble and antient family of Kinnoul derives its origin.

Situation, &c.—This parish is situated in the Presbytery and County of Perth, and within the Synod of Perth and Stirling. It is of a very irregular form, being intersected in different directions, for 3 or 4 miles, by the adjoining parishes of Scone, St Martin's, and Kinfauns.

That part of the parish which lies adjacent to the church and manse, is beautifully situated, on the east side of the river Tay, directly opposite to Perth, and is between a mile and a half and 2 miles square; bounded on the north and northeast, by the parish of Scone; on the southeast and south, by the parish of Kinfauns; and on the west and southwest, by the river Tay. The disjoined districts of the parish will be best known, by examining Stobie's map of Perthshire, under the names, Inchyra, Balthayock, Murrays-hall, and Balbeiggie.

Soil, Culture, &c.—The soil of this parish is various. Near the Tay, in some places, it is a strong clay, (particularly at Inchyra), in some light and gravelly, and in others a good loam, and some part of it has a tilly bottom. Every sort of soil has been greatly improved of late; many fields, which formerly were barren and uncultivated, are now, by proper culture and management, producing rich crops of all kinds of grain. The rapid progress of improvement here, as in most parts of the country, within the last 20 or 30 years, has raised the value of land amazingly; and were some of the present leases expired, the rent of some farms would be more than doubled. The tops of the hills and such grounds as were reckoned unfit for cultivation, are now covered with thriving plantations; so that there is not much waste ground in the parish. The art of husbandry is now too well understood,

stood, to preserve the absurd distinction of out-field and in-field, which formerly prevailed. On the farms which lie near to Perth, no strict rotation of crops has been observed; having the command of lime and other manure, by an easy carriage from Perth and Bridge-end, the farmers can keep their ground in good heart without it; but it would certainly be better, were they to observe a regular rotation, as the ground would thereby be kept in proper order at a smaller expence; and it would contribute greatly to their advantage, if more attention was paid in cutting down thistles, and other weeds around their fields, before they shed their seed. There is not much summer fallow used here; but the end of a fallow is in a good measure attained by the horse-hoeing of turnip and potatoes, which, when done with attention, effectually destroys the annual weeds, and cleans the ground. A great deal more grain is raised in the parish, than would serve the inhabitants; and it is generally of an excellent quality, and brings a good price in the market. The prices of grain vary according to circumstances, and the state of the preceding crops. The seed time commences commonly in March, and closes with May. Wheat is sown from the middle of September, to the end of October. The harvest generally begins about the end of August, or the beginning of September. The present medium rent of land, may be about L. 1 : 8 per acre; a few acres near to the church of Kinnoul, are let at L. 5; others at L. 3 : 3 per acre. Such is the value of land in this neighbourhood, that 5 acres, which pay of feu-duty and public burdens, about L. 14 *per annum*; were sold about 9 years ago, for L. 560. The general contents of the parish are about 2906 Scots acres; of which 2214 are arable and pasture lands, a small proportion excepted. The remaining 692 acres are planted chiefly with Scotch fir; intermixed with larixes, beech, and other forest trees. Large quantities
I of

of potatoes are planted by some farmers, which are sold, when growing, in small lots, to tradesmen and labourers, in Perth and Bridge-end, and usually bring from L. 8, to L. 12 per acre. Few or no sheep have been kept in the parish, since the hills were planted, and the practice commenced of laying down so much ground with clover, and other green crops. The English plough is generally used. It is drawn by a pair of horses, and managed by one man without a driver. All other implements of husbandry have of late been greatly improved. The valued rent of the parish, is L. 4775 : 18 : 6, Scots. The real rent may be at present about L. 3017 : 13 : 6, including L. 520 for salmon fishings.

A considerable part of the parish is inclosed with hedges of hawthorn, or beech, which makes a fine warm fence, as it does not shed its leaves in the winter; some part with stone fences.

Air, Climate, and Diseases.—The air is generally pure and salubrious; although in winter, the hoar frosts are sometimes very severe near to the river. The inhabitants are afflicted with no peculiar diseases; nor are epidemical infections either common or remarkably fatal. Fevers are rare, and are commonly of the slow and nervous kind, and chiefly among the lower class. Rheumatic and asthmatic complaints are the most prevalent, and especially among the aged of the poorer sort, which is probably owing in a great measure to scarcity of fuel, and to cold lodging. The small-pox is the most fatal disease among children, as the practice of inoculation has not even yet become general; at times too, the measles and hooping cough carry off many infants, when those diseases prevail in the neighbourhood. But the people in general, enjoy good health, and many of them live to old age, though there are few instances among them of remarkable longevity.

One

One man died a few years ago, above 100; and 6 are now alive, who are above 80. The ague, which was very common about 30 years ago, is now scarcely heard of. But in places where this disorder was most prevalent, and especially in the Carse of Gowrie, it is observed that young people are now more liable to consumptions than formerly. The jaundice also has of late become a more frequent disease.

Rivers, Salmon Fishing, &c.—There are no rivers which run through this parish; the Tay, which washes its western borders, being rather to be considered as its boundary, than as making any part of it, excepting in one small spot opposite to the church, where this noble river divides itself into 2 parts, and forms a small island; one half of which is in this parish, and the other in the parish of Perth. That branch of the river which is in this parish, is called the Willow-gate. But that which is next to Perth is the course which vessels of burden usually hold, when going to Perth or Bridge-end; but boats and small sloops often come up the Willow-gate, as being a shorter passage. Vessels from 90 to 100 tons burthen, can easily make the shore of Bridge-end in spring-tides; and when larger vessels are employed, part of their cargoes are taken out (about 2 or 3 miles below Perth) and put into boats, which are used as lighters, from Perth or Bridge-end. It is generally thought, that the Tay discharges more fresh water into the sea, than any other river in great Britain. The Tay abounds with excellent salmon, and fine trouts of different kinds, which are highly flavoured, and weigh from 2 to 6 pounds. The greater part of the salmon fishings on the Tay, are rented by a company in Perth, who employ a vast number of boats and fishermen. They seldom expose their fish to sale in Scotland, excepting at Perth; where the price of salmon in the spring is sometimes 1s, and sometimes 9d per lib.;
and

and in the summer months, they are never sold below 5d per lib. Since the practice of packing salmon in ice has prevailed, they are sent fresh to the London market in smacks, during the whole fishing season, which commences on 11th December, and closes on the 26th of August following. Two large ice houses for this purpose, were built some years ago on the north side of the church of Kinnoul: all the trouts which are caught in the nets, are the property of the fishermen. The fishings belonging to this parish are rented at L. 520 *per annum*. A very particular account of this valuable branch of trade having been already published from other parishes in the neighbourhood, it would be improper to extend this article farther.

Nursery, &c.—About the year 1767, a nursery was begun in this parish, by Mr James Dickson from Hassendeanburn, near Hawick. He was soon after succeeded by his brother Mr William Dickson, and his present partner Mr James Brown, by whom it has been conducted for upwards of 20 years, on a very extensive scale, and with that degree of success, to which their industry and taste are so justly entitled. This nursery contains between 30 and 40 acres of ground, on the east bank of the Tay, directly opposite to Perth; for the cultivation of which the number of hands varies, according to the exigencies of the season; but at an average, more than 40 find constant employment. The soil and exposure of these grounds, are both remarkably fitted for rearing plants of such a vigorous and hardy nature, as are suitable not only to the sheltered, but to the exposed situations, with which the varied face of the country abounds. This nursery contains all kinds of fruit, and forest trees, evergreen and flowering shrubs, flower roots and plants, which are naturalized to the climate. The proprietors have

always been particularly careful in the selection and proof of the various kinds of fruit-trees, and in consequence of this, the demand has been very extensive. On the nursery grounds, (south from the church of Kinnoul,) they have lately erected a large well constructed green-house, in which there is not only a numerous, but a rich collection of exotic-plants. And at their shop in Perth, they keep a complete assortment of all kinds of garden, grass, tree, and flower seeds. These various articles, find a ready market, not only in the rich adjacent country, but in the more remote parts of Scotland. They are even frequently sent to England and Ireland; for which, the many regular opportunities of water-carriage from Perth, particularly to London, and other places in south Britain, give this nursery great advantages. The happy effects of the establishment of such a branch of trade, are not confined to the actual operators, but are conspicuous on the face of the whole surrounding country. The plants and trees in our gardens and orchards, have been not only increased in number, but improved in quality. Numerous and extensive plantations have been formed, and are all thriving so well, that an example productive of so much ornament and utility to the country, is every year finding many imitators.

Bridge-end, and Bridge of Perth.—The village of bridge-end, derives its name from its situation, being placed at the east end of the bridge of Perth.

The old bridge over the Tay, at this place, having been carried away by a great flood in the river, in the year 1621, the communication between Kinnoul and Perth, was afterwards carried on by means of ferry-boats, which were always attended with considerable inconvenience and expence; and frequently with great danger. No fewer than 30 boats, and as many boat-men, were employed on this ferry, as it was
one

one of the most frequented passes in Scotland. Some of these boats were occasionally employed as lighters, for vessels in the river. In this state, things continued until 1765, when a subscription for a new bridge was opened, chiefly by the patronage of the late Earl of Kinnoul, to whose patriotic exertions, it is well known, the present bridge over the Tay at Perth, owed its existence. It was reared under his auspices; he pledged a considerable part of his private fortune, to carry on the work; and it will remain a lasting monument, to the honour of that great and worthy nobleman. The subscription soon amounted to L. 11,298:17:6, of which government furnished no less a sum than L. 4000.

The foundation stone was laid on the 13th September 1766, by its principal promoter, the Earl of Kinnoul, in presence of the sheriff-depute of the county, the Provost and Magistrates of Perth, and several other gentlemen, amidst the applauses of thousands of spectators. The bridge was compleated, and the last of the workmen paid off, 13th of November 1771. The Earl of Errol's coach was the first that passed along the bridge, in the winter between 1770 and 1771. The plan was drawn by Mr Smeaton architect, and the work executed according to his orders, by Messrs Guyn, Morton, and Jamieson. The bridge consists of 10 arches, one of which is a land arch. The clear water way, is 589 feet 9 inches. The extent of all the arches, 730.9. The wing walls, 176. So that the total length of the bridge, is 906 feet 9 inches; and to the credit of the architect and undertakers, it has remained hitherto firm and unshaken. The utility of this bridge is not confined to Perth and its neighbourhood, but extends to the country at large; as all are more or less concerned in an easy and safe communication, at so central a situation, between the northern and southern parts of Scotland. Several attempts were made at different periods, to rebuild the bridge at Perth, but all these attempts

were

were deserted, probably from the want of a proper fund to render them effectual. The whole expence of the bridge, was L. 26.446:12:3.

Before the new bridge was built, Bridge-end was a poor paltry village, consisting of a few houses, chiefly for the accommodation of the boatmen and their families. The houses were low built, ill-lighted, and covered with straw-thatch; but of late, a better style of building has prevailed, and a great addition has been made to the village. Within the last 7 years, no less than 31 new houses have been built, which are commodious and well lighted; which will cherish a spirit of cleanliness, and contribute materially to the health of the inhabitants. Some of the houses lately built, are rented at L. 50, and none of them below L. 9 or L. 10 *per annum*. There are 98 houses in the village, and the buildings are still going on; and perhaps the time is not far distant, when Bridge-end will be an extensive, populous, and respectable village. Some gentlemen of considerable landed property reside in it; and were some spirited manufacturers established there, they would have the best opportunity of purchasing linen yarn and cloth, going to market, from the Carse of Gowrie, Coupar of Angus, and the Stormount, as the turnpike roads from these districts, all meet in Bridge-end. The Earl of Kinnoul, is superior of the whole village; and by his Lordship's charter, for the baronies of Kinnoul and Pitcullen, he is entitled "to
 " hold a weekly market every Thursday, and 4 free fairs in
 " the year; 1 on the 15th of May; the 2d on the 12th of
 " June; the 3d on the 5th of July; and the last on the 7th of
 " October. By said charter, also the village of Bridge-end,
 " is to be called the burgh of Kinnoul: and the fairs to be
 " held there, or in any other town or place within the rega-
 " lity; with power to erect and build, free sea-ports, harbours,
 " and shores, for receiving ships, boats, and other vessels,
 " within

STATE of the Funds, for building a Bridge over the Tay at Perth, and of Expensiture upon the Work and relative thereto, from its first commencement in January 1766, to Whitsunday 1787.

FUNDS.

His Majesties Donation, from the Annexed Estates	L. 4000				
Do. of L. 700 yearly for 14 years, from said Estates	9800				
The Community of the Burgh of Perth, of free gift	2000				
do.	500				
The Convention of Royal Burrows,	4798	17	6		
The free gift Subscription by Noblemen, Gentlemen and others	1491	17	9 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Tolls collected, till the same was set in lease	11222	10	—		
Tax duties of tolls, from Whitfunday 1772, to Whit-					
funday 1787	1491	19	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		
irrecoverable	—	—	—		
Lent to the Town of Perth, on Bond, at L. 4 <i>per cent.</i>	7617	5	4 $\frac{5}{8}$		
towards the L. 1500 Fund to be lent out for Repairs	34003	17	7 $\frac{3}{4}$		
	700	—	—		
N. B. The Tax duties of the Tolls, gradually increased					
from L. 700, to L. 863 <i>per annum.</i>	34763	17	7 $\frac{3}{4}$		

“ within the bounds of the said lands of Kinnoul and Pitcul-
“ len, or any part thereof; with the privilege of passage
“ cobs and boats, from the burgh of Kinnoul, and from
“ the lands of Kinnoul and Pitcullen, or any part thereof
“ upon the water of Tay.” The beautiful villas, built on
the rising ground, immediately above Bridge-end, are a con-
siderable ornament to the place and neighbourhood.

Population.—The population of this parish, is greatly en-
creased within the last 8 or 10 years, although some small
crofts have been conjoined, and several cottage-houses desert-
ed, which should naturally have diminished the population.
This increase of inhabitants is not owing to any manufac-
tures established in the parish, for there are none; but it is
chiefly to be ascribed, to the toll being taken off the bridge of
Perth; a circumstance which has induced many tradesmen and
others, to purchase ground, and build houses in the village of
Bridge-end, who would not otherwise have thought of it;
and there is a great probability, that the parish will still in-
crease, as the village of Bridge-end, from its situation, pro-
mises in time, to become considerable.

The number of souls according to the return made to Dr
Webster, in 1755, was 1163

In January 1795, the number of souls was 1465

Of Males 740 Females 725

Of these under 10 years of age,—341

Above 10 and under 20,—284

Above 20 and under 40,—416

Above 40 and under 60,—323

Above 60 and under 80,—95

Above ————— 80,—6

Total 1465

Increase

302

Of

Of Presbyterian dissenters, of various denominations	190	Wheels-wrights	-	2
Of Episcopalians	18	Carters	-	6
Families of Quakers	2	Sailors 3. Boatmen 3	-	6
Clergyman	1	Bakers	-	10
Schoolmasters	2	Butchers	-	6
Weavers and their apprentices	57	Nursery men and gardeners	14	
Masons	18	Sadlers	-	3
Wrights	18	Shop-keepers or merchants	6	
Inn-keepers	16	Coopers	-	2
Shoemakers	17	Boat-carpenters	-	2
Tailors	15	Barbers	-	2
Smiths	5	Chelsea-pensioners	-	2
		Dyers	-	2
		Excise-officer	-	1

Abstract for Six Years preceding January 1795, of Baptisms and Marriages.

Baptisms $\frac{260}{6} = 43\frac{1}{3}$ yearly.

Marriages for the same Number of Years.

1784 ——— 11

85 ——— 12

91 ——— 14

92 ——— 21

93 ——— 12

94 ——— 13

Average $13\frac{2}{3}$ yearly.

There can no account be given of the number of deaths, as there is no register of burials kept here; nor would it convey

vey

vey satisfactory information, if there were; because many families continue to bury here, though they no longer reside in the parish; while others who do reside, bury elsewhere.

Church of Kinnoul, Manse and Stipend.—Sir Robert Erskine, Lord of Erskine, and great Chamberlain of Scotland, in the reign of David Bruce, gave in pure alms to the monastery of Cambuskenneth, the patronage of the church of Kinnoul, with some lands lying in Strathern. He was proprietor of the barony of Kinnoul, in which he was succeeded by Sir Nichol Erskine his second son. It was usual for the abbeyes or monasteries, to retain the rectory tithes of the churches which were gifted to them, and to maintain an officiating vicar out of the small tithes; but this was not the case, with respect to the church of Kinnoul. The monastery always presented a rector or parson, who, in consequence, received the rectory tithes, or at least, a part of them, as he could agree with the monastery.

The Patron Saint of the Church of Kinnoul, was St Constantine.

“January 4th 1518—19, John Watson, burgess of Edinburgh, sold to his beloved cousin, Mr James Davidson, Chaplain of the altar of St Ninian, within the parish church of St Constantine, the martyr of Kinnoul, a house and garden in Perth.”

N. B. Constantine III. King of Scotland, became a Monk among the Culdees at St Andrews. He is denominated Monk and Martyr in the Scottish calendar, and his anniversary was celebrated on the 11th day of February.

Parsons or Rectors of Kinnoul, before the Reformation.

1. Mr James Boswille, some short time before the year 1500, was

was parson of Kinnoul, he was a younger son of David Boswille of Balmuto, in Fife.

2. Mr Walter Drummond, in the year 1500, was Dean of Dumblane, Parson of Kinnoul, Clerk of the Registers and Council of Scotland. He was second son of Sir Malcolm Drummond of Cargill, and brother of John, the first Lord Drummond. In the time of the first Viscount of Strathallan, who wrote the history of the Drummonds, there was a chamber in the castle of Drummond, called from him, "Walter's chamber." He was the ancestor of the Drummonds of Deanstown.

3. Mr John Drummond, was son of the said Mr Walter. He succeeded him in the Deanry of Dumblane, and in the parsonage of Kinnoul. By order of his uncle, the first Lord Drummond, he married, in the year 1514, in the church of Kinnoul, Margaret Tudor, widow of King James IV. to Archibald Douglas, commonly called the great Earl of Angus. The daughter of this marriage, was the Countess of Lennox, mother of Henry Lord Darnly. The Earl of Angus, was a grandson of Lord Drummond.

4. Mr James Heriot, in the year 1519, was rector of Kinnoul, he was at the same time, canon of Ross, and official in Lothian, for the Archbishop of St Andrews.

N. B. I have not met with, or been informed of any more of the Popish parsons of Kinnoul.

Parsons after the Reformation.—Mr William Rynd, December 20th, 1560, was appointed by the General Assembly minister of Kinnoul. He was about the same time, chosen rector of the grammar school of Perth; and continued in both offices, till his death, February 20th, 1610. Many articles of his public conduct are recorded in the Ecclesiastical Histories of Scotland.

Mr Ninian Drummond, about 1610, was translated from some other parish, and admitted minister of Kinnoul. He was grandson of the first Lord Drummond, and 5th son of Henry Drummond of Riccarton. His two immediately elder brothers were Papists, and, enjoying offices under the Pope, resided in foreign parts. His wife was Margaret Crichton, daughter to the laird of Lugtown. His second son, Mr Edward Drummond, having been for some years with his Popish relations in Avignon, and in Rome, was prevailed upon to profess the Popish religion. But he returned to his own country in 1628, and in the year thereafter renounced the errors of Popery, and became a Protestant minister. Mr Ninian Drummond, was greatly respected in the church. He wrote concerning the antiquities of the house of Drummond, and his book was of use to the Lord Viscount Strathallan, when he wrote his history of the Drummonds. He died at Kinnoul, April 1635, having arrived at a very old age.

Mr Thomas Halyburton, descended from a family in Angus, was settled minister of Kinnoul, September 16th, 1635. He accompanied the Earl of Kinnoul's children to London in 1639, having obtained, from the presbytery, leave of absence. He was translated to the church of Errol, February 1640, and died minister of Errol, January 1649.

Mr James Oliphant, was ordained minister of Kinnoul, September 1640. He had studied in the University of St Andrews*. He resided much in the family of the Earl of Kinnoul; but at last, promised that he would reside more constantly in his own parish. He was sometimes under pro-

VOL. XVIII.

4 A

cess,

* In 1644, some of the Irish, who were serving under the Marquis of Montrose, roasted their meat in the parish church of Kinnoul, and burnt the forms or seats which belonged to the Communion Tables.

cess, before the ecclesiastical commission, and other courts, as a malignant against the solemn league and covenant, and seems indeed to have been all along a well-wisher to the royal cause. In 1649, he preached a sermon, shewing how unlawful it was for women to pray or to teach in public. But he made use in this sermon of some reflections so severe against women in general, as brought him under some censure. After the King's restoration, in 1660, Mr Oliphant, as might well have been expected, conformed to Episcopacy, and thereby kept possession of his church, till his death, in April 1665.

Mr Thomas Fowler, son or grandson of the aged Mr James Fowler, minister of Kinfauns, was ordained to be minister of Kinnoul, November 28th, 1665. After the Revolution, in 1639, he was ordered to leave his church, for not conforming to presbytery. His parishioners, however, being greatly attached to him, he continued for some years to evade the execution of the sentence. At last, in 1697, he was obliged wholly to leave his church, and delivered up the kirk-box, and above 500 merks in money contained therein.

Mr Andrew Darling, was translated from the parish of Hoddam in the presbytery of Middlebie, to be minister of Kinnoul, January 19th, 1698. He was a native of the town of Galashiels, in the county of Selkirk. He had been sent as a missionary to assist the presbytery of Perth, who were then very few in number; because many parishes had resisted the introduction of Presbyterian ministers. His popular talents made him of great use to the cause of presbytery in his own parish and neighbourhood. He died at Kinnoul, in 1731, or 32.

Mr Thomas Ranken succeeded him in March 1733, and continued minister of Kinnoul, till November 1745; when he was translated to Aberdalgie, which was then a much smaller
benefice

benefice than Kinnoul, a circumstance which is not very common in translations.

Mr Patrick Bannerman was translated from St Madoes, and admitted minister of Kinnoul, 13th November 1746, and remained minister there till November 1760, when he was translated to the parish of Salton, in the presbytery of Haddington.

Mr Patrick Meik was translated from the parish of Moneidy, to Kinnoul, July 29th, 1761, and died there, 18th July 1782; and the present incumbent was translated from the parish of Dunning, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, and was admitted minister of Kinnoul on the 7th November 1782.

The church was rebuilt in 1779. It is a decent and commodious house of worship; but by much too small for accommodating the parishioners. Several families have been obliged to take seats in the churches of Perth, a circumstance which diminishes the provision for the poor which depends on the weekly collections of this parish. The church is beautifully situated on the banks of the Tay, opposite to Perth; upon the north side of it, there is an aile, belonging to the family of Kinnoul, and which was the burying-place of that noble family, till about 20 years ago, when a vault was built for that purpose, on the east end of the church of Aberdalgie. In 1635, an elegant monument was erected on the north wall of the aile, to the memory of chancellor Hay, the first Earl of Kinnoul; in the middle of which, is a statue of his Lordship, as large as the life, dressed in his robes as chancellor, and embellished with escutcheons, and coats of arms. It is a very striking likeness of that great man, if we can judge from the best portraits of him in Dupplin castle. There is no inscription on the monument.

The manse was built in 1735; it has received some addition since, and has been at different times repaired. The stipend

is 2 chalders of bear; 2 chalders of meal; half a chalders of wheat; and about L. 52 sterling of money, including the Communion Elements. The glebe is about 4 acres and a half; there is no allowance for grafs. The sacrament is dispensed regularly once a year, at which time, no less than between 900 and 1000 communicate: a considerable number of them come from the neighbouring parishes. The collections on that occasion amount to about L. 10:10 sterling. The great number of communicants is chiefly owing to the vicinity of Kinnoul to the populous town of Perth. The Earl of Kinnoul is patron. An Antiburgher meeting-house was built about 7 or 8 years ago, on the eastern extremity of this parish; but the people who belong to it have no minister.

School and Poor.—For several years the parochial school has been in a flourishing condition. The number of scholars is much the same during the summer and winter; and is seldom under 60, and sometimes about 80.

The schoolmaster's salary was lately raised from 100 to 200 merks, paid by the heritors; he has a free house and garden; and as precenter and Session clerk, his salary is L. 3 *per annum*. The present number of scholars is 65, of whom 4 read Latin; 20 read English; 24 learn writing, and 17 arithmetic. The school fees per quarter are, for English, 1s; for writing, 1s 6d; for arithmetic, 2s; and for Latin, 2s 6d. The schoolmaster's salary, together with the school fees and other perquisites may amount to L. 35 sterling; there is another school in Bridge-end, taught by an Antiburgher Seceder, which is pretty well attended.

Poor.—There are no begging poor in the parish; but many vagrants resort thither, from every quarter. The funds for supporting the poor arise from the weekly collection at the church

church; the stated dues for the mort-cloth at burials; dues on marriages; a voluntary contribution of the heritors and parishioners, who do not contribute at the church doors, or who only attend the church occasionally; and the interest of L. 170 lent out on proper security, by consent of the heritors, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent; amounting at an average, to L. 50 *per annum*. The number of poor upon the parish roll at present is 18, who receive weekly from 6d to 1s 6d, according to their circumstances. Besides these stated pensioners, many occasional charities are given to families in distress; some receive payment of their house-rent; some have the school-fees of their children paid; and others receive some coals for the winter. When the poor are entered upon the roll, their effects at their death are supposed to belong to the poor's fund; but very little advantage accrues from this, as generally the claims of relations for attendance, and the expence of the funeral, is more than the effects of the deceased will repay. An intimation is given twice a year to the heritors, to meet with the Session, to make up a list of the poor, and provide for their maintenance; although no legal assessment has been hitherto laid on the parish; and it is hoped, it will not be found necessary, if non-residing heritors and others who do not contribute at the church, or who only attend occasionally, bestow their charity, according to their abilities.

Antiquities.—About a quarter of a mile south from the church, there is a small vestige of the old castle of Kinnoul. Hector Boethius, takes notice of a curious interview between King James the I. and an old lady who resided there. “The story, (says Cant, in his history of Perth), is not altogether improbable. The King was inquisitive; the lady was above 100 years old, and had seen five of the King's predecessors, besides Wallace the governor. Boece, informs us, that
“after

“ after a polite reception of the King, by the lady, who had
 “ lost her sight by old age, she was seated next to his Majesty,
 “ and gave him the history of Wallace and Robert Bruce;
 “ and told him, that she had seen them both, who were not
 “ only handsome, but very strong; and that Wallace exceed-
 “ ed Robert Bruce in fortitude. The King departed to Perth
 “ well pleased with the entertainment given him by the lady.”
 It is to this story, that Adamson refers, in these lines of
 (Book vi.) of his *Muses Threnodie*, printed at Edinburgh 1638.

“ Within this place, a lady did remaine,
 “ Of great experience, who likewise knew
 “ By spirit of prophecy, what should ensue;
 “ Who saw Wight Wallace, and brave Bruce on live,
 “ And both their manhoods lively did describe
 “ Unto that noble Prince, first of that name,
 “ Worthy King James, who hearing of her fame,
 “ Went to her house, these histories to learn,
 “ When as for age, her eyes could scarce discern.
 “ This lady did foretell of many things,
 “ Of Britain's Union, under Scottish Kings.
 “ And after ending of our civill feeds,
 “ Our spears in syths; our swords should turn in speads.
 “ In signe whereof there should arise a Knight,
 “ Sprung from the bloody yolk, who should of right
 “ Possess these lands, which she then held in fee,
 “ Who for his worth, and matchless loyalty
 “ Unto his Prince, should greatly be renown'd,
 “ And of these lands instyled, and Earle be crowned;
 “ Whose Son, in spight of Tay, should joine these lands
 “ Firmly by stone, on either side which stands.”

The last lines, have of late been very naturally applied to
 the late Earl of Kinnoul, to whom we are chiefly indebted for
 the bridge of Perth; and whose lands are on both sides of
 the river.

At Balthayock, the seat of an ancient family of the Blairs, are the remains of an old castle, the walls of which are almost entire. It appears to have been a place of considerable strength, and bears the marks of great antiquity; but we are at a loss to know by whom or at what period it was built, as there is no record found to determine it; and scarcely any traditional account handed down concerning it. It is situated on the top of a den, where many useful herbs and rare plants are found. The castle is supposed to have belonged to the Knights-Templars.

Hills.—There are 2 hills in this parish, *Kinnoul-hill*, and the *hill of Murray's hall*, which are rather different parts of the same ridge of hills, at the distance of 2 miles from one another; from which there is one of the most beautiful and extensive prospects. The hill of Kinnoul, is the most remarkable. Its height, above the level of the Tay, is 632 feet. On the south, it is exceedingly steep, consisting of ragged rock, and presents a very striking and formidable appearance. It is covered with a thriving plantation, to the very summit: On the north side of the hill, there is a gradual ascent, through a serpentine walk, by which a carriage can easily go to the top. This is called Montague's walk, from the late Duke of M. who was in Scotland when it was formed.

There are several very rare plants to be found on the top of the hill of Kinnoul, among which, are the following:

<i>Cynoglossum Officinale</i>	Officinal hounds tongue
<i>Nepeta Cataria</i>	Cat-mint
<i>Allium Vineale</i>	Vine Garlick
<i>Potentilla Argentea</i>	Silver Cinquefoil
<i>Veronica Saxatilis</i>	Rock-speedwell
<i>Asplinium Ceterach</i> , &c.	

This

This hill has been long famous for the number of pebbles found in it, consisting of fine agates, onyx, and a few cornelians.

There is a steep and hollow descent betwixt two tops of the hill, which is called the *Windy Gowle*. Near to this place, in certain positions, there is a remarkable echo, that repeats above 9 times; and on the face of the hill there is a cave, in a steep part of the rock, which, it is said, will contain about a dozen of men. It is called the *Dragon-hole*. We are informed from the ancient records of the kirk-session of Perth, that during the times of Popery, a great number of people assembled here, on the 1st of May, to celebrate superstitious games, which the Reformers prohibited under severe censures and heavy penalties. There is a tradition among the common people, that Sir William Wallace hid himself in this hole of the rock, when he absconded for some time.

Provisions, and Servants Wages, &c.—The price of provisions has risen greatly of late years; things in general, are at least doubled in price, within the last 20 years. Chickens, which were then sold for 2d, are now 4d or 6d a piece; hens, which formerly were sold for 7d or 8d, are now from 1s to 1s 3d; eggs are 6d and 7d the doz.; beef in autumn, is 4d, and in spring, 5d, and sometimes 6d per lib.; mutton from 3d $\frac{1}{2}$, to 4d in autumn, and 5d in spring; veal and lamb are commonly 6d; all Amsterdam weight. A goose sells at 2s 6d, and 3s; turkeys, at 4s 6d, and 5s; all other provisions are in the same proportion. The prices here are regulated by the Perth market. The yearly wages of a plough-man have increased at least one half, since 1770. At that period a good plough-man could have been hired for 4 or 5 guineas; and now the common wages are 9, 10, and sometimes 12 guineas. The wages of women

women servants, are between L. 3 and L. 4 *per annum*; of an house carpenter a day, 1s 8d; of a mason, 1s 6d and 1s 8d; of a taylor with victuals, 6d or 8d; and of a common labourer without victuals, 1s or 1s 2d.

Character of the People.—The inhabitants of this parish, with a few exceptions, are sober, industrious, economical, and contented with their situations in life. They are in general, very regular in their attendance on the ordinances of religion: they are ready on every emergency to relieve the distressed, and alleviate the miseries of their fellow creatures, according to their abilities. And although there are different religious opinions among them, they live in peace and good neighbourhood.

Roads.—There are 3 turnpike roads which go through part of the parish; one leading from Perth to Dundee; one to Cupar of Angus; and one by Scone to Kinclaven. These will prove of great advantage, as the farmer has thereby an easier access to lime and other manures, and the product of the land is carried to market, at less expence and trouble. But the benefit derived from good roads, must still be partial and much limited, while the cross-roads remain in the miserable state in which they are at present, not only in this neighbourhood, but also in many other districts, of the country; and it is hoped, that some method will soon be adopted to remove this inconvenience, at least in some measure. At first, the common people did not relish the turnpikes; but they are now sensible of the advantage of them.

Miscellaneous Observations.—The number of farms in this parish, is about 27; more than the half of these, are very
VOL. XVIII. 4 B small,

small, and cannot support a family without some other employment. The number of heritors is about 28; the most part of them are small feuars or portioners. Lord Kinnoul is the principal heritor: there is no free-stone quarries in the parish; but there is plenty of whin stone, which is very useful for building houses, and has been of great service in making the turnpike roads in this parish and neighbourhood. There is only 1 meal-mill in the parish: of late, several mills have been built for threshing corn. There is a considerable brewery and malting concern in Bridge-end. Last season, there was there malted 2008 bolls of barley, which paid of duty, L. 761:10:9. There is also a small tannage, which does a good deal of business; and about half a year ago, Mr Young, a watchmaker, has set up a new branch of trade; he makes all the mechanical parts of a watch, and sends them to the London market; he makes none which are sold under L. 25:5, when they are completed.

This parish and district, derives great advantages from its vicinity to Perth, and to the Tay, which is navigable to this place. The fuel of this country is coal, a regular supply of which, till of late, was brought in plenty, from the Firth of Forth, and sold at a moderate rate. The ordinary price, within these 6 years, was 3s 2d per boll, which weighs 40 stones; and the same quantity now, is 4s, or 4s 6d. The late Act of Parliament, which took off the duty coast ways, has in some measure, removed this hardship, as many now burn English coal on reasonable terms. Some of the poor in this place use brush-wood, and some of them, make a kind of peat of culm, or dross of coals, mixed with cow-dung.

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF STRATHBLANE.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. Mr GIBB.

Name.

THE parish of Strathblane takes its name from the river Blane, which rises in it, and runs through its whole extent. Blane is a contraction of two Gaelic words, signifying *warm river*. The literal interpretation of the word Strathblane, consequently is, “the valley of the warm river;” a name fitly appropriated to this parish, which from its situation, enjoys a peculiarly mild atmosphere. Lying on the south side of the Lennox hills, it is sheltered by them from the inclement winds of the north; while the reflection of the sun’s rays from a light sandy soil, produces an agreeable temperature of the air at all seasons.

Situation, Boundaries, &c.—Strathblane is situated in the northwest corner of Stirlingshire, and lies within the bounds of the commissariat of Glasgow. In ecclesiastical matters it belongs to the presbytery of Dumbarton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is bounded on the east, by the parish of Camp-

lie ; on the south, by the parishes of Baldernock and Newkirkpatrick ; and on the west and north, by the parish of Killearn. It lies 10 miles north from Glasgow, 14 east by south from Dunbarton, and 20 southwest from Stirling. Its form is an oblong square, 5 miles long, and 4 miles broad.

Soil, and face of the Country.—This parish may properly be distinguished into valley and moor grounds. The valley is bounded by high hills on the north, and by a rising ground on the south side of the river, which ascends about one third of the height of the opposite hills. This hanging ground on each side of the river, consists of a light quick soil, is well cultivated, and produces excellent crops. Toward the western extremity, the valley widens considerably ; and the soil there, on the level grounds, is clay mixed with a rich earth, deposited from time to time, by the overflowing of the river. This soil is fit to carry heavy crops of any kind of grain.

The moor runs parallel to the valley, commencing at the brink of the rising ground on the south side of the river, and extending in an uneven surface, about a mile and a half in breadth. Here the ground descends into the parish of Newkirkpatrick, with a declivity similar to that with which it ascends from the Blane. A great proportion of this consists of heath ; but in many places, particularly on the south border, and in the western extremity, it is now cultivated, and produces crops nearly as rich as those in the Strath. The soil here, in the parts susceptible of cultivation, is dry, light, and rocky ; and from the return which it makes, when properly laboured and manured, gives great encouragement to the improver. Besides these moor and valley grounds, the hills on the north side of the parish afford most excellent pasture for black cattle and sheep.

The

The general appearance of the country is agreeably picturesque. Coming from the south, the traveller at first ascends from the fertile fields of New-kirkpatrick, into what appears an extensive heath; but which he no sooner enters, than he finds it interspersed with cultivated fields, and here and there observes a lake of several acres. Descending into the valley, he is charmed with the verdure of the country, the mildness of the air, and the appearance of cheerfulness and plenty, which is displayed around. Several neat villas scattered along the bottom of the hills, and here and there a cascade precipitating its torrent from their sides, enliven and beautify the scene. In summer, the landscape is enriched and adorned by the luxuriant foliage of the woods with which the hills are skirted, and the whole receives an air of grandeur, from the abrupt precipices in which the hills terminate. Toward the west, the hill of Dumgoiack, on the Duntreath estate, presents a singular and striking appearance. Insulated in the middle of the valley, of a conical figure, and compleatly clothed with wood, it arrests the attention; whilst a shoulder of the opposite hill, projecting like the pedestal of an arch, directs the eye, as it were through an immense vista, to the plains below, when the whole prospect is bounded by the distant mountains on the side of Lochlomond.

Cultivation and Produce.—For many years past the farmers have paid considerable attention to the improvement of their lands; and perhaps the state of agriculture is nearly as far advanced as the nature of the soil will admit. Already inclosed, for the most part dry, and originally quick and fertile, it requires only to be manured and laboured, in order to produce plentifully. The manure chiefly used is lime, and the opportunity of getting it readily from the neighbouring parishes of Campsie and Baldernock, has caused it to be generally

rally adopted. The quantity laid on at once is but small, being 4 chalders per acre; but this is repeated with equal advantage, after two rotations of crops, or every 12th year. This fact has been ascertained by undoubted experiment. The crops generally raised, are oats, barley, and grass-seeds. The usual rotation, is 2 years pasture, 2 crops of oats, 2 of hay, and then pasture again. The lime is spread upon the pasture grass, a year previous to ploughing it up for oats. This gives it time to incorporate with the mould, and both improves the grass, and meliorates the soil for a future crop, to a higher degree than when laid on in the same year in which the ground is ploughed. The grass-seeds are sown with the second crop of oats, in the quantity of half a boll of rye-grass seed, and from 4 to 6 pounds of clover seed to an acre. This course of cropping is uniformly adhered to, and is only varied, in as far as barley is partially introduced for the second crop of oats. As far as this can be done, it is certainly an improvement on the plan; but as barley only succeeds when the ground is well dunged, the sowing of it cannot be extended any farther than the quantity of that manure collected in the course of the year will admit.

This method of cropping may be thought too severe, especially the second crop of hay, which is very impoverishing. But as this article brings a good price, being usually sold at 6d per stone, the farmer depends a good deal upon it for his rent; and it yields ready money the second year, without any expence of seed or labour; an object worthy of being attended to.

Of late years, however, the farmer's hopes have in a great measure been frustrated in this respect, by the inattention of the seed merchants, who have supplied them with rye-grass seed, which remains only one year in the ground. The first appearance of this annual seed, caused a good deal of alarm
and

and disappointment, and various methods have been adopted, to remedy or supply the defect. Some by preserving and collecting the seed of such as remained the second year, acquired by degrees, a stock sufficient for their own supply. Others, by sowing an additional quantity of clover seed, secured at least, a good bulk of hay the second year, though inferior in quality to the rye-grass hay.

But the hope of an effectual and general relief is now afforded, by the public spirited proposals of the *Farmers Society* at Glasgow, who have lately taken the matter into consideration. This society (of which most of the farmers in this parish are members), consists of the most noted and experienced farmers in an extent of country of 15 or 20 miles round Glasgow. The exertions of so many men, eminent in their profession, promise to become of general utility. By a private subscription among themselves, they have already raised a considerable fund, from which, they give premiums to eminence in agricultural exertions or useful improvements. They also assist spirited members of their own body, by lending them money from their fund, toward carrying useful projects into execution. It has been proposed amongst them, to commission their own grass-seeds from the best foreign markets; by this plan if it shall be carried into execution, they will not only secure the best in quality, but also have a saving on the price. When imported to the general depot at Glasgow, each parish can conveniently get the quantity allotted to it conveyed home. It is by turning the attention of the inhabitants of a country to such useful and practical objects, that a nation may expect to become truly great.

Pease and beans have been found to thrive well in several farms, and one spirited farmer made lately an experiment of a wheat crop, which succeeded to his wish. From 2 acres, he reaped 32 bolls. The ground indeed was summer fallowed,

ed, and richly dunged. This success would have encouraged him to continue the plan, but the scanty supply of dung prevented him. He therefore now substitutes a turnip crop for the summer fallow, and a barley crop for the wheat; and from an exact calculation, he finds he is a gainer by this latter method. If this practice should become general, it will certainly be more profitable than the method at present in use.

The following table contains the average quantity of grain and hay sown, and produced annually.

<i>Annual Average of</i>			
	Bolls sown.	Product of each boll.	Total product.
Oats	486	7	3402
Barley	44	8	352
	Acres.	Stones.	Stones.
Hay	120	product 150 per ac.	18000

Grazing.—Agriculture, however, constitutes only one branch of the farmers employment in this parish. The rearing and feeding black cattle and sheep, occupy a considerable share of their attention. The excellent pasture afforded by the hills, which can never be turned to agricultural purposes, both compels and encourages their exertions in the grazing line.

In this branch; the stock of milk cows deserves to be first mentioned. This has been brought to a considerable degree of excellence, by the attention which has been given to procure bulls of a good kind, and by selecting the best and handsomest cows to breed from. Accordingly, the breed is much esteemed in the country toward the west and north, and the farmers find encouragement to rear as many as they can, to answer the demand that is made from that quarter. The cows reared, are sold when they first become pregnant, which

which is at 3 years old, and they then bring from L. 5 to L. 6 each.

Besides the milk cows or native stock, a considerable number of highland cows are fattened upon each farm. These are commonly bought in at the Michaelmas and Martinmas markets, and wintered upon the farm, with the assistance of a little fodder, from New-year's-day, till the middle of April. They are then fed during the following summer, and sold to the Glasgow and Paisley markets in autumn. At the time they are sold, they generally weigh from 18 to 24 stones of beef and tallow, which brings, at an average, 6s per stone.

The sheep stock consists of ewes, which are all of the short or black faced kind; which the farmers have taken considerable care to improve, by selecting the best rams, and supplying the defect of their stock, with the best and stoutest ewe lambs. In addition to this, they also buy in from time to time, good lambs from those parts of the country which are famed for keeping good stocks of sheep. The profits arising from the sheep stock, are chiefly derived from the wool and lambs. The smeared wool sells at 6s per stone, and white wool from 8s to 9s. The lambs bring at an average 6s each. A few of the worst ewes called *shotts*, are likewise sold every year about Martinmas.

The ewes are so managed, as to begin to produce their lambs about the 10th of April; the most proper season on high grounds. It sometimes happens, that a number of them have twins. When that is the case, the ewes are brought down to the low grounds, where the rich pasture enables them to nurse both. If any ewe happens to lose her lamb, she is confined in a house, with a twin lamb taken from another, for two nights; by which time, she becomes attached to it, and nurses it as her own. In the latter end of July, the lambs are weaned; when those selected for keeping up

the stock, are put to a separate part of the farm, where they are kept apart from their dams, till next summer. The rest are either sold for slaughter, or for stocking farms in other parts of the country.

In the month of November the whole stock is smeared; a practice which, although it is both expensive and troublesome, is found to be not only necessary, but beneficial. The salve, a mixture of tar and butter, kills the vermin with which sheep are infested, and makes the wool adhere closely to the animal. This contributes both to its comfort during the winter, and preserves a better fleece till the season of shearing, than what is then found on the white or unsmeared sheep. The wool also, though not of so fair a colour as the unsmeared, is yet of a better quality. These advantages attendant upon smearing, have been ascertained in the most satisfactory manner, by a comparative experiment lately made by a farmer in this place. He took 100 lambs of the same stock, and divided them equally; taking equal care in every respect of the two parcels. He smeared 50, and left 50 unsmeared. At the sheep shearing season, 4 fleeces of those that were smeared, weighed a stone; whereas, it took 7 fleeces of the unsmeared to produce the same weight. The quality too of this last was inferior, being coarse and matted. He persisted in the experiment for 5 years, and the older the sheep grew, the preference in favour of the smeared wool became still more decided; till at last the merchant could scarcely be prevailed upon to take the white wool at the same price with the smeared. The ewes also failed sooner than the others; so that he gave up the attempt, fully convinced of the propriety of smearing the wool stock.

The same enterprising spirit, however, which prompted the above experiment, induced him to try others, for reducing the expence of smearing. After repeated trials of sundry ingredients

gredients mixed with the *tar* and *butter*, in order to reduce the quantity of these expensive articles, he found that butter-milk in a certain proportion, produced this effect. Thus, 2 pints of butter milk, added to 6 pints of tar, Scots measure, and 12 pounds Tron, of butter, will smear 4 sheep more than the same quantity of tar and butter by themselves. If the butter-milk be a week or two old, it is so much the better. It makes the tar and butter incorporate more closely, renders the salve firm, and draws much finer upon the sheep, than without it. Besides these advantages, the salve thus prepared, is fit for immediate use; whereas, without this ingredient, it requires to stand some days after it is made, before it can be used.

The horses kept in this parish, are entirely destined for the purposes of husbandry, and a very few are reared for sale.

A table is subjoined, shewing the numbers of each kind of cattle in the parish.

Horses kept for labour,	-	-	100
Do. reared annually,	-	-	26
Milk cows,	-	-	310
Cows rearing under 3 years old,	-	-	376
Cows fattened annually,	-	-	442
Sheep, consisting of ewes.	-	-	1200

This article ought not to be concluded, without taking notice of the laudable exertions of Archibald Edmonstone, an extensive grazier on the Duntreath estate, to introduce improvements in his line. Among many other attempts to this purpose, (to which allusions have oftener than once been already made in this account,) he has lately introduced a few sheep of the true Spanish breed into his farm. The only hazard of which he was apprehensive, was that the inclemen-

cy of the weather in winter would hurt them. Of this apprehension he has been most agreeably relieved. They have already stood two winters, as well as the rest of his stock; and one of them was the most severe, that has been known for many seasons. The only precaution which he used, was to keep them on his low grounds during winter; but in summer, they are fond of feeding on the tops of the hills, and thrive there as well as the native breed. Their lambs are equally hardy as themselves, and promise to become a great acquisition to the country; the wool being much superior to any ever known in this place. Each ewe produced L. 4, and the ram L. 5, which brought 3s 6d per pound, and was even at that price sold much under value.

Last year he crossed the breed with the Spanish ram and Scots ewes; and also with a Scots ram, and the Spanish ewes; and this experiment has succeeded beyond expectation. The lambs thus generated, have wool little or nothing inferior to the old Spanish sheep, and they may be expected to be even hardier than these, as being inured to the climate from their birth. In short, there is not a doubt, if he had a sufficient extent of low ground to winter a large stock upon, that Mr Edmonstone would push this experiment to a degree which might prove highly beneficial to himself, to his landlord, and, *as setting an useful example*, to the whole country.

In autumn last, he also procured a few Cheviot ewes, which he has crossed with his Spanish ram. It is expected this will produce a hardy breed, and improve the wool to a still greater degree of fineness, than the crossing with the common Scots ewes; but on the success of this experiment, time must be left to decide.

Manufactures.—Although this parish cannot boast of extensive establishments in manufactures, yet lying in the vicinity

nity of the city of Glasgow, a portion of that spirit of enterprise, which possesses all ranks there, has diffused itself hither. Three bleachfields have lately been erected, which employ a considerable number of persons. These belong to companies stationed at Glasgow, who send their goods here to be bleached. Nothing can excel the softness and pureness of the water for this purpose, being broken by rushing from the hills and precipices, and filtered through beds of the cleanest sand. The ground also on the banks of the river, affords the most favourable situations for spreading cloth. Consisting of a warm sandy soil, it contributes towards whitening and clearing the goods sooner, and to a more exquisite pureness, than can be done where the soil below is of a clayish texture. The chief employment of one field is bleaching muslins and pullicates. The other two belonging to inkle factories in Glasgow, are wholly confined to bleaching tapes and yarn.

Mechanics.—Of these weavers constitute the greatest proportion, as besides the employment they get from the country people, they are supplied with abundance of work from the manufacturing companies in Glasgow. There are about 22 looms employed in this manner; besides 10 inkle looms lately set to work, at one of the bleachfields above mentioned. Of other tradesmen, there are 7 taylor, 3 shoemakers, 3 hosiers, 3 carpenters, and 1 smith.

Population.—There being a great many feuars or small heritors, who reside upon and labour their own lands, this parish has on that account been less subject to fluctuation in its inhabitants, than might otherwise have happened. It has however experienced some changes in this respect. A considerable diminution of numbers has been produced, within the last 20 or 30 years, by the greater proprietors letting out
3 their

their lands in large farms, which exclude cottagers. On the other hand, an accession of 60 or 70, has lately been obtained by the persons employed at the bleachfields.

The population as returned to Dr Webster, in 1755, was 797. In this present year 1795, it is found by an actual enumeration, to be 620 souls.

Of these there are,

Under 10 years of age,—140

From 10 to 20 years,—125

—— 20 to 50 - —247

—— 50 to 70 - —68

—— 70 to 100 - —40

Total 620

Diminution since 1755, 177

Average of deaths *per annum*, - 7

—— of births, - 13

—— of marriages, - 5

Poor.—The poor are supported by the weekly collections at the church, and the interest of a fund amounting to L. 220, accumulated by charitable donations from individuals, having property or interest in the parish. There are at present 7 persons on the parish-roll; 5 of whom receive 5s monthly, and the other 2, being bed-ridden, receive 10s monthly. Besides this allowance, they are supplied with coals in the winter, and for some of them, their house rent is paid. Several others, who have not hitherto been admitted on the roll, receive such occasional assistance, as their necessity requires. These distributions are managed by the Kirk Session, without any

any expence to the fund. To their discretion also, is left the apportioning each poor person's supply, and they keep regular books for the inspection of the heritors. By this management, the poor are kept from public begging, a nuisance wherever it prevails; and with which this parish, notwithstanding it thus supports its own poor, is greatly infested by mendicants from other parts.

Heritors.—The superiority of this parish is vested in his Grace the Duke of Montrose and Sir Archibald Edmonstone Baronet of Duntreath; whose ancestors, at one time, also possessed the whole property of it. In the beginning of last century, that part of it which belonged to the estates of Montrose was chiefly feued out; the castle of Mugdock, and the park adjoining, being alone retained in the family. The estate of Duntreath, formerly one of the greater baronies, in right whereof the proprietors sat in Parliament without election, still constitutes about a third part of the parish. The ancestors of this family, were twice allied to the Royal Family of Scotland. Their last marriage into it was between Sir William Edmonstone, Baronet of Duntreath, and Mary Countess of Angus, daughter of Robert III. and sister to James I. This Princess lies buried in Strathblane church. The present Sir Archibald is lineally descended from both alliances.

There are 9 other heritors, who possess property in the parish, from L. 100 to L. 250 each; besides 15 of smaller note, who reside on, and farm their own lands. The whole rental of the parish, amounts to L. 2500.

Church, &c.—The church is a mean building, erected in the beginning of the present century; and having never been lathed or plaistered, the bare walls and roof without cieling,

cieling, present a very sorry appearance for a place of worship.

The stipend hitherto has been 85 bolls of oat-meal, and L. 27:7:11 sterling in money. A new decret of modification was obtained at the instance of the present incumbent, before the Teind Court, in 1793, converting the money into grain; which when allocated, will augment the value of the *living* to L. 130. His Grace the Duke of Montrose is patron.

Roads, &c.—This parish is intersected with good roads in every direction. Two turnpikes run through it from south to north, in parallel lines, at 2 miles distance from each other. The one leads from Glasgow to Balfron, and a little beyond that village, joins the great military road between Stirling and Dumbarton, at the 17th mile-stone from Stirling. The other line leads from Glasgow to Drymen, where it also joins the military road, at the 11th mile from Dumbarton. Besides these roads, which intersect the parish at right angles, there is another which cuts it diagonally, from southeast to northwest, forming a junction between the Edinburgh road near Kilsyth, and the above-mentioned military road at Drymen bridge. The western part of this line, which was formerly impassible, is just now converted into an excellent turnpike road. If the bridge over the Leven at the mouth of Lochlomond, which is at present in contemplation, be built, the straight road from the west highlands to Edinburgh, will run through Strathblane, thereby avoiding the compass by Stirling on the one hand, and by Glasgow on the other. To these advantages, it will add that of being more level, there being no sensible ascent from the Leven, to Kilsyth. All these roads have received very material improvements within the last 6 years. From being so steep and rugged,
that

that a horse could not draw half a load upon them, they are now rendered smooth and level, so that a carriage of any weight may pass with ease. This improvement we owe to Robert Dunmore of Ballendalloch Esqr, the original mover of it; a gentleman to whose public spirited exertions this district of country stands indebted for many real and permanent advantages.

There are many bridges over the streams which fall from the mountains; but none of any note. They all consist of an arch, of about 12 feet span. Of these, there are 7 within the parish, which render the communication easy and safe at all times.

Wells, Lakes, &c.—The hills, which form the northern boundary of the parish, constitute part of that range anciently known by the name of “the Lennox hills.” In former times, the noble family of that name had extensive possessions in this part of the country; and the district itself was denominated Lennox. The shire itself is now partitioned between the counties of Dumbarton and Stirling; but the range of hills will transmit the name to posterity.

The “Lennox hills” reach from Dumbarton to Stirling, beyond which the range is continued from the Forth to the Tay, under the name of the Ochils. Throughout the whole, stupenduous piles of basaltic rocks are found. In Fintry, which lies in the midst of this range, about 8 miles eastward, a most magnificent colonade of these pillars presents itself; of which a particular description is given in the Statistical Account of that parish. In this parish, the front of a precipice for the space of a furlong is lined with stately columns of the same kind. They consist of 4, 5, and 6 sides, are from 2 to 3 feet in diameter, and 30 feet high. They rise from the horizon with a little inclination from the perpendicular,

and some of them are apparently bent in a segment of a curve line.

The highest hill in the parish is the *Earl's seat*, elevated above the rest of the range, with a conical top. Here the Blane has its source, whence it runs in a southwest direction for 3 miles, and is then precipitated from the south side of the hill, over several very high falls. The most remarkable of these is the *spout* of *Ballagan*, a cascade of 70 feet. This, when the river is swelled, puts on a very grand appearance. Leaving the spout, the Blane turns due west; when after running 8 miles in this direction, it loses itself in the Endrick, which falls into Lochlomond. It may here be observed, that the Blane, with the whole district through which it runs, has been omitted to be marked in Ainslie's map of Scotland.

At the spout of Ballagan a very remarkable section of the hill is presented. The side of it, cut perpendicularly by the water, discovers no fewer than 192 alternate strata of earth and lime-stone. Near the bottom of the section are found several thin strata of alabaster of the purest white. There were found also near the same place, among the rubbish thrown up by the river in a late inundation, some fragments of antimony, which when tried by a chemical process, turned out to be very rich specimens. The source however, whence these were dug, has not been discovered. If it shall be found, it may probably prove a valuable mine.

There are 6 lakes in the parish, the largest of which does not exceed half a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth. These lie in the moor-land part of the parish, and contribute to render that a chearful prospect, which would otherwise be bleak and dull. They abound with pike, perch, and trout. They are also frequented by wild ducks, and other aquatic fowls. In the Blane likewise, there are
plenty

plenty of small and some large trout; and salmon make their way up in considerable numbers, at spawning time.

Buildings.—The castles of Mugdock and Duntreath, especially the former, have been anciently places of considerable strength. There is no tradition concerning the time when they were built; nor do they bear any inscription from which that can be ascertained. Their construction, however, determines them to have been built about the same time, and for the like purpose, with many others of the kind in Scotland, viz. to defend the chieftains who possessed them from the sudden incursions of a hostile or enraged neighbour. The castle of Mugdock seems to have been a regular fortification. Covered on the east and north by a lake, the waters of which were drawn around it by a ditch, whereof the scite is still apparent; it must have been inaccessible to any force, which could be brought against it in those days. The square tower which is still entire, has something peculiar in its construction. After rising to the height of the outer wall, the west and south sides of it spread so as to form an obtuse angle at the corner, over the great arched gate-way. This would appear to have been done with a view of more easily observing from within the motions of an assailant. By this construction also, missile weapons might be discharged from both those sides of the tower, upon an enemy approaching the gate.

Opposite to this tower, at the distance of 300 yards, is heard a very extraordinary echo. It repeats any sentence of 6 syllables, in the exact tone, and with the very accent, in which it is uttered; waiting deliberately till the sentence is finished, before it begins; and it will reverberate even a whisper.

Trees.—Two oak trees adjoining to the public road at Blar-quhosh, in the western extremity of the parish, attract the notice of passengers, as being unusually large in this part of the country. The trunk of the largest, measures 15 feet in circumference, and its branches form the radii of a circle 30 yards in diameter. As the public road passes underneath it, it falls within the notice of every traveller. The other grows near it, and though not quite so large, is a more beautiful tree, having a taller trunk, and being more closely covered with foliage.

Inundations.—Owing to the vicinity of the hills which attract the clouds, the Blane is frequently subject to sudden swellings. It has however, only risen twice to an alarming height, withing the memory of persons now living. About 60 years ago, a water spout is said to have burst at its source; which poured such a torrent from the hill, as threatened unavoidable destruction to the plains below. Happily however, as the Blane falls into the valley, at a place whence it declines to both the east and west, the waters, bursting from their accustomed channel, were discharged eastward. By this circumstance, the country was saved at that time, from the effects of the deluge. The waters turning in this direction, where the valley is wide and level, they stagnated upon it. Here also, they could do little damage, the ground toward the east for 2 miles being marshy.

The accounts, however, which old people gave of the magnitude of that inundation, were such as appeared fabulous; till they were again formidably exemplified, during a thunder storm on the 13th of August last, 1795. About 8 o'clock on the evening of that day, the clouds which during the afternoon had hung in threatening aspect around the skirts of the horizon, were condensed above the Earl's seat. Here they burst,

burst, and fell, as was evident from the effects, in entire sheets. The spout of Ballagan appeared as an opening, whence the bowels of the mountain were issuing in water: reaching the plain, the torrent burst the banks of the river on each side, and discharged itself in nearly equal quantites to the east and west. That which run west, tore up every thing before it. Corn fields were laid waste. Oats, barley, and potatoes, were destroyed to a great amount. Much damage was done to the bleachfields below. It carried stones of 3 tons weight a considerable way into the open field. At one place, it forced a passage for itself along the public road, which it tore up like the channel of a river. In short, it presented such a scene of devastation, as must appear incredible to those who have not seen it. It is computed, that there was at least 6 times the quantity of water ever seen in the river, during the greatest usual floods; and had it not been for the circumstance of a part being discharged to the east, it would have swept the houses situated on its banks before it. It lasted 4 hours, during which time, the thunder and lightning were tremendous.

Historical Anecdotes.—The name of Rob Roy M'Gregor, a famous Highland free-booter, is familiar to every inhabitant of this part of Scotland. The depredations which he and his descendants committed are still related with wonder. The following copy of an order of the Justices of the Peace, met in quarter session at Stirling, a little after the middle of last century, will show the manner in which he held the country under contribution. It is taken verbatim from the original manuscript, sent at that time to be published at the kirk of Strathblane.

“ At

“ AT Stirling, in ane Quarter Session, held be the Jus-
 “ tices of his Highness Peace, upon the 3d day Febru-
 “ ary, 1658—9. The Laird of Touch being Chyrf-
 “ man.

“ Upon reading of ane petition given in be Captain M’Gre-
 “ gor, makand mention that several heritors and inhabitants
 “ of the paroches of Campsie, Dennie, Baldernock, Stra-
 “ blane, Killearn, Gargunnock, and uthers within the sher-
 “ rifdom of Stirling, did agrie with him to oversee and pre-
 “ serve thair houses, goods, and geir, frae oppressioun, and
 “ accordinglie did pay him; and now that sum persones delay
 “ to maik payment according to aggriement and use of pay-
 “ ment; thairfore it is ordered, that all heritors and inhabi-
 “ tants of the paroches aforesaid, maik payment to the said
 “ Captaine M’Gregor, of thair proportionnes, for his said
 “ service, till the first of February last past, without delay.
 “ All constables in the several paroches, are heirby comman-
 “ dit to see this order put in executionne, as they fall answer
 “ the contrair. It is also heirby declared, that all who have
 “ been ingadgit in payment, sal be liberat after such tyme
 “ that they goe to Captaine M’Gregor, and declare to
 “ him, that they are not to expect any service frae him,
 “ or he to expect any payment frae them. Just copie ex-
 “ tracted be

“ JAMES STIRLING, Clk. of the Peace.”

“ FOR Archibald Edmonstoune, Bailzie of Duntreath, to
 “ be published at the Kirk of Strablane.”

It is to be observed, that the inhabitants of the country
 were obliged to enter into such engagements with him, to se-
 cure

cure them against the depredations of a banditti employed by himself to plunder. And as he possessed power enough to overawe even justice itself, it is not to be wondered at, that he obtained such an order in his own behalf. Such an incident should teach us to set a high value upon the happy privileges which we enjoy under a mild and safe government.

About 3 years ago, a number of old coins were found in this parish, inclosed in a log of wood. They consisted of crowns, half crowns, and shillings of Elizabeth, James I. of England, and Charles I. A few gold coins were also found amongst them, and some Dutch ducatoons; the value of the whole might amount to L. 40 sterling. The log was about a foot and a half square. A small triangular opening was cut into the surface of one of the sides; by this aperture, the log had been excavated, and the treasure deposited. It was then closed up with a piece of wood, neatly fitted to the place, and fastened with wooden pegs. As none of the coins bear a later date than the reign of Charles I. they must have been concealed during the troubles which preceded or succeeded the death of that monarch.

The history of the log itself is somewhat singular. It can be traced back for 40 years. At that time, it is remembered to have served as a prop to the end of a bench in a school-house, near the church. Afterwards, it was used as a play thing by children, who amused themselves with carrying it to the top of a declivity, whence it rolled to the bottom. It then lay many years on the wall of the church-yard. At last, it was appropriated by a crazy old woman, a pauper, who lived in a hut by herself. She used it as a seat for above a dozen of years. She dying, a neighbour was employed to wash the clothes that were found in her house. As fuel was scarce, the log was laid on the fire to heat water for that purpose; it not burning quickly, the washer woman took it off,
I and

and proceeded to cleave it with a hatchet. At the first stroke, the treasure came out and was secured by the woman, who perceiving the value, wished to conceal it. In a few days however, it was divulged. But the woman's husband, who was a worthless fellow, got hold of it, and decamped with the whole amount; a few pieces excepted, which he had previously fold. He has not since been seen in the country, and has left his wife to support 5 children by her own industry.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF LEUCHARS.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. Mr KETTLE.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

LEUCHARS, if derived from the Celtic language, is said by some, to signify a wet flat; by others, a place abounding with rushes; either, or both interpretations faithfully describe the appearance which the surface made some years ago, a great way to the northeast, and a little to the southwest of this village. The district is of large extent from west to east, and from southwest to northeast, more than 9 statute miles, and more than 5 miles broad, at two different parts of the parish, considerably distant from each other. The measurement by Mr William Innes now lies before me.

The figure of the parish is completely irregular, being bounded on the northeast, east, and southeast, by the German ocean, and the various windings of the river Eden on the south, and southwest; on the other parts by the neighbouring parishes. It is affirmed with truth, that within the bounds of this district, every soil known in this country is to

be found: blue, white, and red clays, strong and weak, sharp lands, loam of various depth and strength; a mixture of loam and clay, light lands, moss, heath and bent in no small quantities. Before Sir David Carnegie sold part of the lordship of Leuchars, he employed a number of workmen to cut a large drain of 3 miles long, passing through the west end of the village of Leuchars, that the surface on each side of it might be turned into more important uses. The Hon. Robert Lindsay bought this part of the lordship before the effect of the drain was fully proved. Mr Lindsay found himself under the necessity, at no small expence, considerably to enlarge the former drain, and thereby rendered it effectual for relieving the flat grounds of the water through which it passed. Many acres formerly covered with coarse grass and rushes, and about 36 acres south and west of Leuchars, covered with water to a considerable depth in the winter season, and not free from water in the summer, are now producing abundant crops of all kinds of grain, clover, turnip, and cabbage. These grounds are let from 14s to L. 1 : 16 per acre; yielding a profitable return to the generous landlord, and affording the labourers hope, that their expence and industry may not be altogether unrewarded. Of the many remaining acres to the north and northeast, some are highly improved, and others in a state of preparation for similar crops. These circumstances are motives which should prompt to exertion in all similar situations in Scotland; but are by no means, to those who wish well to mankind, the most important motives for draining water from the neighbourhood of villages. Before the above drain (of 20 feet wide, and 14 deep, for a considerable way above the outlet) was cut, the families who lived near the stagnant water, were subject in the spring and end of autumn, to intermitting fevers of very long continuance; from 23 to 33, and sometimes to 39 days. Whole families were to be seen in

such distress at the same time, that no one could assist the others. They depended on the kind ministrations of their neighbours, for the supply of their necessities. Often has the poor's fund been employed, to pay women to wait upon such distressed families; and it is hoped, it will not be looked upon as a prostitution of that sacred fund. Since these stagnant waters were completely drained, those diseases and the sad train of complaints connected with them, have happily been unknown; meanwhile, it is supposeable, that the same happy effects must flow from the same causes in every part of the country, and should prove an irresistible motive to draining, independent of the profit or satisfaction resulting from it. It is not easy to describe the pleasure of viewing luxuriant crops, adorning the place where the eye had been accustomed to see stagnant water and noxious vapour impregnated with diseases and death.

Agriculture.—The culture of this parish is conducted by a sober well informed persevering and wealthy tenantry. No expence or labour is withheld. Every exertion is made to bestow whatever is thought necessary, under the providence of a gracious God, to aid the fertility of the soil. All chilling moisture is led away, and the plough is made to return till the roots of every weed are destroyed. Every meliorating crop has its due rotation. Lime, that genial pulverizer, that gives healthy fermentation, is brought by water from England and Scotland, and from lime-kilns in the neighbourhood by land carriage, and thrown with unsparing liberality upon the fertile bosom of the earth.

A very considerable quantity of wheat is annually raised in this district, although several of the tenants have been unwilling to mention the exact number of bolls they sow; by their own account, there were 649 bolls sown in 1790; and in 1791,

670 bolls were sown. I believe that the sowing of wheat is upon the increase in this parish; and although I do not presume to be a judge, I have an apprehension, that it may be carried too far.

Considerable quantities of wheat, barley, pease, and beans, are annually exported from this district; several hundred bolls of oats, and sometimes of potatoes; but the exported potatoes as far as I know, never turn to great account, which has in some measure cooled the ardour of exporting this valuable part of the produce. Flax is also raised; but not in such quantities as to compete for premiums. It is thought a severe crop, and there is seldom more sown than what is necessary for the use of the families, or in order to induce labourers to engage for the harvest. The tenant gives 10 yards square to sow one lippy of lint-seed. Some tenants allow two lippies to each of their labourers. Formerly, the land here was ploughed by 4 and 6 oxen, and 2, sometimes 4 horses before them all, yoke fellows in a large Scots plough. The ground is now ploughed with 2 horses, in a chain plough made upon Small's construction. The horses are guided, and the plough directed by one man. Here may be one or two of the tenants who use 2 oxen and 2 horses in 1 plough, and one tenant who has 2 oxen without horses, in 1 or 2 of his ploughs. If it was proper for the writer of these facts to give his own opinion, he would be inclined to approve of and recommend the last practice, especially in large farms. Every tenant sows a considerable field of clover, in proportion to the extent of his farm, or the necessities of his stock. On every farm, turnips are raised in smaller or greater fields, as they are intended for the cows and young stock only, or for such as are fed for the knife. There is no great attention given to a peculiar breed of cattle in this district; because the cultivated lands are thought too valuable, and the weaker
and

and uncultivated, insufficient for raising cattle of bone. The Fife cattle, however, always bring good prices in the market; and I believe it will not be said that the cattle of this parish are inferior to those of the other parts of the country. Cabbages and greens are also planted in the fields, but in small quantities by the side of the turnip, to be used when frost renders the turnip more difficult to be obtained. Potatoes, that make so great a part of the food of the lower classes of society, are cultivated by every one who rents land, for the use of his family, horses, cows and hogs. They are in general used for the last 3 animals without boiling. The tenants give 10 yards square or 12 for planting a peck of potatoes to the manufacturers and other labouring people, for so many days work in harvest, or any other throng season; wisely thinking that this is preferable to money, as it procures them hands in the time of their need. Much useful information concerning the culture and preservation of this invaluable root has been lately obtained, by means of the benevolent exertions of the Board of Agriculture.

I know not if the following observations have been made. Many causes for the curle-top amongst potatoes have been assigned, that mankind might avoid this devourer of so valuable a part of their food. When that part of the potatoe is cut for a set which the former year adhered to its root, it invariably produces a curle-top. It would be of no small consequence, therefore, before the seed is cut into sets, that a careful hand should be employed to cut off this part of every potatoe, and keep it entirely separate from the seed. When there is too little of the potatoe left at the bottom of the eye, that is separated for a set, it has the same unhappy consequence. This year has led men of observation to conclude, that wet land produces the curle-top. There are two very long ridges in a field near this place, planted with the same culture,
manure

manure, and seed: the one ridge is rather lower and flatter than the other. In this ridge, there is not one plant of an hundred found. In the other ridge, the 4 rows lying nearest the furrow on each side of the ridge, are curle-tops, with very few exceptions; the 4 rows on the highest part of the ridge, are healthy vigorous plants. I know no way of accounting for this, but by saying that the excess of moisture has produced it.

There were in this district in 1792, more than 1559 cattle young and old, male and female. There were 420 horses of the above description, and of sheep, 1940. The tenants breed their own cows, and most of them their working horses. There are in this parish 7 threshing milns, and their number will soon be increased. One of these is set and kept in motion by water, a very considerable saving to the tenant; and the machine, one would think, must move more steadily, and with greater effect, than those worked with horses. Some indeed have made use of oxen and horses; but these animals have so different a movement, that the practice has not become general. It is to be hoped, that oxen will be trained for this useful instrument of husbandry; and there can be little doubt, that in some situations and circumstances, it might be worked by the force of wind. There are 4 meal milns in the district; one lint and barley mill, moved by one water wheel; and one belonging to a dyer for the purposes of his employment.

There are 3 bridges in the parish, all of them over the Multree burn; one of them giving passage to travellers from Cupar to the north, and the other to travellers from the north to St Andrews: one end of the Guard bridge rests on this parish; the other on the parish of St Andrews.

On this end of the bridge is erected the only toll-gate within the

the bounds of the district. There are 50 tenants in the parish. The extent of their farms is very different; from 10 to 500 acres. Those of the last mentioned extent are in the east part of the parish. The land lets at from 10s to 50s an acre, excepting those extensive farms in the east part of the parish; which are rented at from L. 40 to between L. 60 and L. 70.

Heritors, Improvements, &c.—There are 16 heritors in the district, 14 of whom do not reside; a very material loss to the poor, and no small disadvantage to the inhabitants, as their residence would give real encouragement to the industrious, and a serious check to those few who in every society are inclined to be disorderly in their manners and practice. In the year 1782, we received no assistance from the heritors for the support of the poor, and were more than once obliged to borrow from the members of the Session; being unwilling to diminish any little sum we had been enabled in more plentiful years to lay up for the purpose of increasing the poor's annual income. For some years past indeed the heritors have attended with a spirit of liberality to the necessities of the poor; and we cannot entertain a doubt, that their benevolence will always be in proportion to the circumstances of the parish. On that part of the estate of Leuchars, purchased by the Hon. Robert Lindsay, containing 3736 acres, stands part of an old house, commonly called the castle of Leuchars, built upon a forced bank of earth, on the edge of a swamp, surrounded by a deep and broad moat, inclosing about 3 acres of ground. In the time of our forefathers, this must have been a place of defence, having no access but by a narrow bridge, till the large drain was cut, which has rendered it accessible on all sides up to the moat. There is a draw-well in the middle of
the

the court, which, to the astonishment of those who lived there some years ago, became dry when the water was let out of the moat, for the purpose of scouring it. The workmen came at last upon the mouth of a covered drain, which they found on a level with the bottom of the well; and upon going down into the well, they discovered the same drain open there; from which they were naturally led to think, that the inhabitants had been supplied with water from the moat without, when surrounded by an enemy.

On this estate, also are some fine old trees.

Mr Lindsay has planted 138 acres with various kinds of timber; the plantation is in the most thriving state, and gives a most delightful rest to the eye, where once there was nothing to be seen, but a moor producing some coarse grass, heath, and furze. The traveller too, is pleased with the variety of nature's luxuriant productions. Mr Lindsay has also inclosed several fields with ditch, hedge, and dyke; and hedge rows of trees. These will in a short time, shelter and beautify the district. In the meantime, they pleasingly employ the imagination in anticipating what their maturity may produce. On the estate of Leuchars, have been built 5 farmsteadings, suitable to, and convenient for the different farms, where the tenants are lodged, if not elegantly, yet with suitable conveniency. The proprietor has also feued ground to the manufacturers and others, for building a house, and a small garden at the back of it, at the rate of L. 4 per acre. So that the village of Leuchars, in place of being literally the village built with turfs, is become a neat country village built with stones and mortar; the houses at least are commodious for manufacturers. There are more than 70 new houses built in this village, within a few years; 8 of them have 2 floors, and 4 of them are covered with blue slates.

On

On the estate of Earl's-hall, belonging to Robert Bruce Henderson, Esq. Advocate, are a few old trees. On this estate is built one of the most extensive farm steadings in the parish. These two estates, once were in what is called run-rig, two ridges belonging to Leuchars, one to Earl's-hall. This mode of division, while it may seem to secure to each proprietor his proportion of good and bad land, must be attended with the most unhappy effects, as it drags the wheels of improvement, and exposes the labourers to no inconsiderable temptations.

On the estate of Pitcullo, belonging to Neil Ferguson, Esq. Advocate, are some very fine old timber, and several fine thriving clumps of young trees. Here are more inclosures, both with stones and lime, and a greater number of old hedges with rows of trees within, than on any estate in the district; here indeed were made the first improvements in agriculture and inclosing. On this estate also, are two substantial new farm tofts.

On the estate of Ardit, the property of John Anstruther, Esq. Advocate, are also to be seen some fine old trees, hedges and clumps rising. These two estates on the west side of the parish, as they rise above the flat ground on the east, afford an agreeable and pleasing variety to the traveller, from Cupar to St Andrews, from Cupar to Dundee, or from either of these burghs to Cupar.

On the estate of Drone, belonging to Robert Meldrum Esq. of Clayton, there are more than 20 acres planted; some 20, some 7 years old: and within these 5 or 6 years, about 10 acres were planted with great taste, in different directions, from the house of Clayton, that will greatly beautify the situation of that building. Here also are two excellent farm steads. There are 8 acres planted on the estate of Pit-lethie, belonging to Thomas Lawson, Esq.; besides some old

timber. This estate is inclosed with ditch and hedge, and hedge rows of different ages, which both give beauty and warmth to the fields.

In the garden belonging to Pitlithie, once stood one of the hunting seats of James the VI. King of Scotland; which had been taken down to a little below the surface, and thus rendered invisible. In digging this garden, the spade rung against a firm stone, and as stones are valuable here, upon removing the earth, the foundation of this hunting seat was discovered to a great depth and thickness. This was carefully raised, and a great part of Mr Lawson's house and offices was built from this quarry. Here too, were found the Royal Arms of Scotland, cut in a stone, which is still preserved, being placed in the front of one of the houses. In a field, near the house of Pitlithie, grows a venerable spreading thorn, where his Majesty's hawks after their toils, were accustomed to refresh themselves through the night.

Sheughy-dyke, or Tentsmuirs, is a very large flat part of the district on the east; about which many wonderful stories have been told, concerning the original inhabitants, and the peculiarity of their manners. After the most laborious enquiry, I find no reason to conclude, according to general report, that this part of the parish was peopled by the crews of a Danish fleet wrecked on the coast. I presume, that the greatest part of this flat, moory, benty, sandy ground, has been left by the gradual retiring of the sea. The sea has been making a gradual retreat from that part of the parish, for many years past, and has left what seems to me strong proofs of having once flowed and ebbed on those grounds. The name seems to have been founded in that caution and economy with which men take possession of property they are not sure of holding; for when the people took their station where the sea formerly made her furrowed bed, they must have

have entertained a fear, that she would in some future storm, return and occupy those parts she had been accustomed to travel over. They did not at first therefore build houses, but erected tents on those parts that swelled a little above the surrounding flats; and to make the situation of their tents more comfortable and dry, they dug a sheugh or ditch, laying the sod, and casting the earth inwards; hence seems to be derived the name Sheughy-dyke. The tent erected in the middle gave rise to the other name Tents-moors.

When these moors have been opened by digging, there has been found in several places, a greater variety of shells, and fish-bones, than could be reasonably supposed to fall from the tables of those tent-dwelling inhabitants; and seem to lead the mind to conclude, that the aged and storm-struck inhabitants of the ocean being washed to the shore, obtained a grave by the next tide covering them with sand. There are likewise in these moors 4 long beautiful canals. Those who espouse the idea of peopling this part of the district with shipwrecked Danes, say, that these canals were formed by those foreigners, to defend themselves from the inhabitants of the surrounding country. I shall not say, how improbable this account appears. These canals seem to give no countenance to such an assertion. The most extended of them is not 2 miles long; and there is a great space of flat ground between the north end of them and the river Tay: the south end of them and the river Eden, consequently could form no defence. But, supposing they could have done so, would it not have been easy for the Scots, to sail from the Forth and Tay, disembark on their rear, while their land forces attacked them in front? These canals do not possess depth of water to render them the least defence. They seem to have been formed by the retiring ocean. There are 4 long, broad, beautiful, and almost parallel canals; called Canal-loch, White-myre,

Toremont, and Tents-muir, or Big waters. I observe this year, that the tenants are cutting drains, and letting the water out of these canals, to render the pasture more beneficial to their cattle. Strangers riding into this flat and not very fertile part of the parish, are surprised with finding this watery variety. I have seen their eyes return to it with pleasure. In the summer, especially if it be a dry one, the greatest part of the water is carried away by the wind, and exhaled by the sun. When in this state, the canals furnish a considerable quantity of coarse grass for the horses and cattle. In this part of the district, there are cattle of a small size reared, as may well be supposed, from the nature of their pasture; and a few working horses of a diminutive breed, to labour the fields, of no great extent, kept in tillage. One great disadvantage attending this sandy part of the parish is, that after the fields are sown and harrowed, if the wind blows strong from the west, or southwest, the mould is blown off the seed, and not infrequently, a considerable part of the seed is blown from the sown ground.

This soil is favourable to turnips, barley, and clover; good crops of oats and rye, are obtained here. The barley that grows in this sandy soil, is heavier in proportion to an equal quantity of the same grain that is produced from good clay; the former being thinner in the husk than the latter. The crops of pease, with a few beans among them, are not so sure or productive.

There is in this part of the district, a salmon fishing of no inconsiderable value, opposite to a small rivulet that runs into the ocean. From the entry of this rivulet, along the shore to the river Eden, the people sometimes amuse themselves by fishing in the summer season, in the following manner: Two of the people take a long net with weights upon the lower edge of it, go into the sea as far as they may with safety, extend

tend their net, and drag it gently to the shore: In this way, they are sometimes more, sometimes less successful in taking sea trout, flounders, and other kinds of fish. They use the same mode of fishing also, in all the convenient pools in the river Eden, when it is low water. This they only do for amusement, or when they long for fish. Is it not supposable, that if these fishings were properly attended to, they might supply all the district with this wholesome and agreeable article of food? There were two no way inconsiderable salmon fishings in the river, one immediately below the Guard bridge, the other opposite to the Coble-house; so called, from a small boat being kept there, by which travellers from the south to the north, and from the north to the south, shortened their way by 2 miles, in place of going round by the Guard-bridge. But since the distillery was erected upon the south side of the river at Kincaple, upon a bank slopping towards the Eden, both these fishings have been much injured by noxious water flowing from the distillery which runs into the river. The one at the Coble-house is entirely given up, and the other greatly decreased. When these were fished, salmon was bought here at $1d\frac{1}{4}$ and a $1d\frac{1}{2}$ per pound Dutch. No salmon can be purchased now below 4d, or frequently 8d per pound. The Tents-moors, and many other farms in the parish, abound with grey rabbits. It is allowed on all hands, that the sale of these animals with their furs, yields more than L. 200 *per annum*. This part of the parish is now almost the only one where sheep are reared. It has been thought that the true breed of Scots sheep are to be found here: originally it might have been so; but they have passed through so many cross breeds, that they are greatly degenerated; yet there remain some very fine-wooled sheep, which, if properly attended to, might again rival their neighbours for the fineness of their fleeces. There has been a flock of 180 sheep lately added to
the

the former stock, making in all 2120. It is only in this part of the district, the numbers are kept up. They have been decreasing in the west part of the parish, for many years, and now are reduced to one flock. In this flock, are a great proportion of long tailed sheep without horns; their pasture is higher, and of course, more dry and nourishing; the sheep of a larger size, and finer wool. But in the east part of the parish, the grass is of a coarser nature, and the soil more subject to retain water from its flatness; the sheep of a smaller size, the 4 quarters weighing from 20 to 26 pounds. The time was, when every farm in the district, had a flock belonging to it; till the culture of clover and rye-grass became general, and every spot of grass land was made to feel the pulverising effects of the plough and harrow, when it was thought more profitable to part with these meek, harmless, and useful creatures.

In the Tents moors, smuggling was carried on to a great extent, by those men in the neighbourhood, who were determined to risk their fortune and character on the events of a day; for the inhabitants of this corner, were only assisting in concealing and transporting their unlawful imports. By the wise and vigorous interposition of the directors of our justly admired government, smuggling, that illicit traffic big with many evils to mankind, is now happily unknown over all our coasts. The inhabitants of this remote corner have been blamed for cruelty to ship-wrecked sailors. If the charge be just, it does not belong to them alone; they are but a handful; the place is thinly peopled. In the days of old, it might have been so; but I have seen much attention and kindness shewn to such unhappy sailors as were cast upon our shore. I trust, and believe, that every future period shall be marked with an increase of brotherly love to the unfortunate.

Church,

Church, Stipend, School and Poor.—The church of Leuchars is placed nearly in the middle of the parish. It is an ancient lofty building, part of it very ancient, situated on a rising ground. The building is more than sufficient to hold the parishioners. There is no record by which the time of its erection can be fixed, and there is even no tradition on the subject. The church was once the only one in Scotland whose steeple ascended on the east end of the building. The time was, when our forefathers worshipped here according to the forms of the Romish church. The door through which the organist entered to perform that part of the service allotted to him, is still seen in the east gable of the church; and the place where the holy water was kept to purify the worshippers on their entry into this temple is also visible. The iron hook on which was suspended the lever for weighing meal on the Lord's day, is battled into the key stone of an arch in the steeple; and in the place below, other merchant wares were sold on that holy day.

A very little west of the present church, once stood a chapel called St Bernard's chapel; no remains of this monument of antiquity are now visible, the stones of it having been used for common purposes. Round where it stood are to be seen many graves, constructed of 4, and some of 6 stones. Some of these graves have lately been looked into without affording any thing worthy of being recorded.

There is a most excellent well flowing with an abundant stream of soft water, near the west end of the village, (for the village is now extending westward,) called by the name of the Saint, to whom the chapel was no doubt consecrated. A little north of the east end of the village, to the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants, there is another well of equal excellence, called the Lady well, no doubt consecrated to the Blessed Virgin. Tradition says, there once
stood

stood a house of worship on the east side of the road, opposite to the house of Ardit; a small field belonging to that estate retains the name of the glebe. There was also once a chapel and burying ground at east Drone in this parish: The glebe is the name of a field there too, but the real history of these has not been transmitted to us. There is a tradition, according to the account by the Rev. Robert Dalgleish of Scots-craig, D. D. that the village of Ferry-Porton-craigs, before the 1606, belonged to this parish.

The stipend of this parish till the year 1791, was 64 bolls bear; 8 bolls wheat; 8 bolls oats; L. 330:10:9 Scots, and L. 36:16:8 Scots, vicarage, in which is included 40 merks for Communion elements. By an Interlocutor of the Court of Session in 1791, their Lordships were pleased to give the following augmentation. Out of a part of the free tythes of the parish, 24 bolls bear; 24 bolls meal; and L. 42:15:11 Scots, in which is included, L. 42 Scots for Communion elements. The Sacrament of our Lord's Supper is annually dispensed in this congregation, in the beginning of March, and end of July, to between 700 and 800 communicants. The Kirk Session received from the bishop of St Andrew's, from funds belonging to himself, L. 28 Scots for Communion elements; the receipt of which, is entered for the last time in the Session records, in the year 1728.

The legal salary of the parish schoolmaster, is L. 6:13:4 sterling. He has besides, by a mortification, a house, garden, and croft; and 2 acres of light land, about half a mile northwest of the village of Leuchars; and L. 4:10:6 ster. left to those who hold the office of schoolmaster, by a late eminent and worthy clergyman of this parish, the Rev. Alexander Henderson.

Leuchars is a pleasant healthy country village, where boarders may be kept to advantage. The present incumbent,

got

got a few soon after he was elected, and has room for a greater number. The number of scholars in the winter is from 80 to 100. The school fees are as low as any in Scotland. Every man who is sensible of the importance of educating the youth, and understands the true interests of his country, must regret, that a body of men so respectable, and so extensively useful as the parish-schoolmasters are, should have appointments so very unequal to their labour and to the situation of their families.

The poor in this parish are supported in their own houses. The Kirk Session are enabled to provide for them by the weekly collections at the church, and the money arising from the mort-cloths, which were originally purchased from the poor's funds; by the rent of 5 acres in the priory of St Andrews, purchased in the same way; and by the produce of a few seats in the church, yielding about L. 1 sterling *per annum*. I believe there is no fund managed with such care, or rendered so extensively useful, as the little funds in the hands of the Kirk Sessions of Scotland. We do not allow any of our poor to beg, though beggars pour in upon us from the north and south, in greater numbers than the situations of men in moderate circumstances can enable them to supply. There are laws to prevent this; but of what use are laws, if they are not put in execution? We have invariably found that those who are most unwilling to accept of aid from the parish, are least easily satisfied, when they have begun to receive it; whereas, those who modestly intimate their wants and receive assistance, as soon as their circumstances become less necessitous, with hearts overflowing with gratitude to Almighty God, inform us that they are able to support themselves, and thank the Session for the kindness shewn them while it was necessary. Pensioners of this description, we supply with the greatest satisfaction.

Population, &c.—By the return to Dr Webster in 1755, the numbers were 1691. By the last accurate survey of the parish, the numbers were 1620. The decrease, which is 71, is to be accounted for in the following manner. There are 6 different farms in the parish, occupied by one tenant; formerly possessed by 3. There is indeed one farm divided into 3, but there are 3 other farms possessed by one tenant, which were formerly occupied by 2. Every plough in the parish some years ago, had a man to hold, and a youth to drive it; the labour of the farms was chiefly carried on by married servants whose families resided on them. It is more the custom now to perform the labour by unmarried servants who have a house near the tenants, in which they sleep, and prepare their food. After they retire from work, they are free from the respect due to the eye of their master, and if inclined to wander, are at full liberty. I believe that these circumstances are not favourable to morals, and that the union of small into large farms, is unfriendly to population.

Abstract of Baptisms and Marriages from 1750, to 1759 inclusive, (there being no record of burials kept at that period;) and from 1780, to 1789 inclusive, to which the list of funerals within that period is added. No calculation can however be made of the number of deaths from the funerals; as many from neighbouring parishes are buried here, and many of the people of this parish in the neighbouring churchyards.

Baptisms.

		Baptisms.		Marriages.
1750	-	47	-	24
1751	-	55	-	20
1752	-	46	-	23
1753	-	51	-	10
1754	-	49	-	14
1755	-	58	-	19
1756	-	34	-	13
1757	-	45	-	14
1758	-	42	-	10
1759	-	51	-	18
		478		165

		Baptisms.		Marriages.		Burials.
1780	-	39	-	19	-	35
1781	-	41	-	12	-	30
1782	-	46	-	14	-	24
1783	-	36	-	14	-	25
1784	-	43	-	6	-	21
1785	-	57	-	6	-	41
1786	-	46	-	11	-	14
1787	-	18	-	4	-	42
1788	-	42	-	10	-	26
1789	-	43	-	13	-	25
		411		109		283

There are of souls in the parish, below 10 years, 322 ;
from 10 to 80, 1288 ; and from 80 to 90, 10.

There are in the parish, 22 Antiburgher, and 13 Burgher Seceders; 1 Berean, and 1 member of the Episcopal church; 37 Dissenters in all. There are 13 wrights; 9 masons; 9 smiths; 8 shoemakers; 6 taylor; 3 wheel-wrights, 2 of these are coopers; 1 surgeon; 1 brewer; 1 baker, and 1 bee-hive and basket maker. In the village of Leuchars, are 7 ale-houses, and there are 2 others in the district. Two ale-houses in the village of Leuchars, are certainly sufficient to supply all the inhabitants; and a greater number tends very much to destroy the morals, and impair the health of the inhabitants. There are 90 looms in the parish, 34 of these in the village of Leuchars. The weavers are employed in what is called household work of various kinds; but chiefly in brown linens, single and double sail cloth, which they weave for the Dundee merchants. Several of them buy yarn, weave it, and sell the webs to merchants in Dundee and Cupar. This kind of manufacture is increasing, and it is thought will increase. There is one of the weavers famous for working all kinds of damask, and other table linens. It is thought the population will soon rise above the return made to Dr Webster: there are 10 new houses built in the village of Leuchars this summer, to be inhabited at Martinmas next. A great spirit for building has discovered itself for several years past, especially in the village: though building is carried on at a great expence, free stones have not been found in the district, except on the southwest, by the side of the river Eden, below a most valuable surface: The proprietors are unwilling to break more of it than what is absolutely necessary for their own use, and the use of their farms. The cart load of free stones costs 2s, the driving and toll, 3d. On the west side of the parish which is hilly, there are inexhaustible fields of fine hard blue whin stones; these cost 1s for driving the cart load, and 4d for quarrying. From the top of Lucklaw-hill, part of which
is

is in this district, there is a most extensive and delightful prospect.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—It is no small advantage to this district, that the river Eden is navigable nearly to what is called the Inner-bridge; a little below which with the concurrence and assistance of some of the heritors, the tenants have built upon the north bank of the Mulltree-burn, commonly called Mothry water, a wall perpendicular on the side of the water, and have filled up the ground behind the wall in such a manner, as to make it easy for carts to approach the wall where they may load and unload small vessels: This gives opportunity of importing what the inhabitants stand in need of, and exporting whatever they can spare. Carriers from St Andrews to Dundee pass and repass twice every week through the village of Leuchars. Carriers from all the towns of the south coast, from Crail to the Ely, pass once in 14 days; perhaps oftener in summer. Carriers from Dundee and St Andrews to Edinburgh, going through Cupar the county town, pass within a mile of the village. Thus, an easy and regular intercourse is maintained between all those distant places, and what we wish to send, or desire to have from them, is conveyed at the ordinary expence of carriage, according to the weight.

The inhabitants of this district derive no small advantage from the shell-fish in the river Eden. They gather cockles and muscles in their different seasons, sometimes eat them by themselves, sometimes prepare them with potatoes, or onions; and the high flavoured juice that is obtained from the fishes in the boiling with a little seasoning, makes a truly wholesome and delicious meal.

There was established by mutual consent, in the year 1792, a society calling themselves the Brotherly Society of support,
in

in and about Leuchars, and members from the neighbouring parishes are admitted. The laws of the society are pious, benevolent, and well meant. Every member on his admission pays 2s 6d ster. and 8d quarterly, or 2s 6d annually. The intention of the fund is to relieve the members when under sickness or the infirmities of old age, or the widows and children of deceased members; who, it is proposed, are to receive 3s 6d weekly, or if a nurse should be necessary, 4s 6d. If any of the members die whose surviving relations are unable to defray their funeral expences, they are to receive L. 1 : 5 for that purpose. (It is submitted, whether societies of this nature in different parts of the country, may not be useful.) Their funds also enable them to buy quantities of meal, coals, or any other necessary article to divide amongst them. There are 2 fairs held in Leuchars, the one on the second Wednesday of April old style, for the sale of cattle, sheep, lint-feed, shoes, and all other kinds of merchant goods, the other on the third Friday of October, old style. The pit coal is at a great distance, and from the throng in the summer season, the fetching one cart containing 5 load, costs 5s 2d $\frac{1}{2}$, and is the work of a long day for one man and 2 horses. The proprietors of coal, are threatening to raise the price.

Diseases.—Epidemical diseases are not known in this district, since the great drain was cut. I have known 3 persons within these 20 years, affected with St Vitus's dance to a very high degree. It was desired that a fiddle should be played on in the presence of the affected person. It was not regular music that gave relief, but the striking of certain strings, which the person under agitation, desired should be struck again. The effect was astonishing; the person affected, became quiet, sat down, and in a little, asked to be put

to bed, but still called for the person to play, till the feelings that produced the agitation were abated.

Some years ago, the people in this parish professed a religious scruple against inoculating their children. They are now come to look upon it as a religious duty to adopt the practice; and not a few of them, when a lancet loaded with matter was procured for them, inoculated their own children. If the scruple could be got over throughout all parts of the country, how many lives would it save, how many fore hearts to parents would it be the means under God of preventing?

Character of the People.—They are in general sober and industrious; regular attendants upon Divine worship on the Lord's day; and grateful to a kind providence for the blessings they enjoy. They are remarkably steady in their attachments, in their loyalty to Our Gracious Sovereign and happy Constitution: 14 from this district entered to serve His Majesty when a late call for sailors was made through the counties.—With what pleasure do I relate these facts, after having read with horror in the Advertiser, for Tuesday the 3d November 1795, the wicked and treasonable attack made upon the sacred person of George the III. Thanks and praise with my whole heart do I offer to the providence of God, for preserving the life of the best of Kings, who has ever been the father of his people; and pray most fervently, that the crown may long, very long flourish on his sacred head, until it please the unerring Disposer of all events, to crown Our Gracious King with a crown that shall for ever flourish in glory, and transfer his earthly crown to the head of His Royal Highness George Prince of Wales.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF MARY-KIRK.

(COUNTY OF KINGARDINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN BRYMER.**Antient and Modern Name.—Situation, and Extent.*

THE antient name of this parish was Aberluthnot, or as it is more commonly expressed in ancient records, Aberluthnet. This name it received early, but at what particular period, is not now known. It seems, however, to be of Gaelic etymology, and to bear an allusion to the situation of the village in the center of which the church stands; to the small rivulet that passes by, and the lands that surround it; or perhaps some memorable event in this particular place, now buried in oblivion, has introduced the name, and communicated it to the church and parish. The estate of Kirktown-hill, which is now scarcely known by any other name, was formerly called the Kirk lands of Aberluthnet, as appears by a charter for these lands, granted by Cardinal Beaton, to David Barclay of Mathers, anno 1540, and by another of confirmation from Queen Mary, anno 1543, by which were conveyed to him also, all the lands and acres of the village of Aberluthnet, the burgh of

of barony, weekly market, and yearly fair, together with the Mill, Mill-lands, and Bourn of Aberluthnot, lying on the banks of the North-Esk river. Before the Reformation, and in honour of the Virgin Mary, the parish obtained a change of name, from Aberluthnot, to Mary-kirk, which it now bears. This is evident from the above-mentioned charter, in which there is not the least mention of Mary-kirk. It is bounded on the south by the North-Esk river, which separates it from the county of Angus, and parish of Loggie-Pert; on the east and northeast, by St Cyrus, Garvock, and Laurence-kirk; on the north and northwest, by Fordoun and Fetter-cairn. It is about $36^{\circ} 45'$ north latitude, and $2^{\circ} 10'$ west longitude. Agreeable to Mr Garden's map and measurement of the county, anno 1774, the form of the parish is irregular. It comprehends 8191 Scots acres*, and its length and breadth are nearly equal. It is at the distance of 4 Scots miles from Montrose, and 6 from Brechin,—placed at the south extremity of an extensive plain, generally known by the How, or hollow lands, of the Mearns; and is so exceedingly flat and level, that you seem, almost in every direction, gradually to descend as you approach the river. The only hills or eminencies in this parish that seem greatly to variegate the scene are Kirktown-hill and Balmaleddie, which run, the one behind the other, in a northeast direction, about 2 miles. Their south extremities are at a little distance from the village of Mary-kirk; and as the distance is increased, they advance by a gradual elevation, until they terminate all at once by a sudden slope, in what is called the Wide Open. This separates them from the Garvock-hills, which extend several miles in the same course, and are a boundary to the parish.

VOL. XVIII.

4 H

Village

* Instead of 8191 Scots acres, Mr Garden should have made it 7591, having measured 600 acres belonging to another parish.

Village of Mary-kirk.—Near the banks of the North-Esk river, and somewhat more than half way, on the road leading from Montrose to Laurence-kirk, lies the village of Mary-kirk; to and from which the traveller is delighted with the agreeable appearance of the country. To the north and northwest, at the distance of sometimes 7 or 8, 9 or 10 miles, he beholds the majestic appearance of the Grampian mountains, darting their lofty heads to the clouds. In an almost opposite direction, and bounding the parish, lie the hills of Canterland, Balmaleddie, Kirktown-hill, and Garvock; though not so stately as the former, yet as they are cultivated to the tops, they please the eye, and appear as so many safeguards, appointed by providence, to shelter the vallies below from the frequent storms that come with great violence from the east and northeast. Here the number of gentlemen's seats, the variety of woods and lawns, the grateful fertility of the fields, and the beautiful meanders of the river, together with the extensiveness of the prospect, and the champaign appearance of the country, all invite the stranger to travel from Montrose to the north in this road, rather than in any other. The village itself, has indeed no other ornaments than its local situation, its serene air, its salubrious and refreshing springs, and pleasant fields, to recommend it. It has not now, nor does it appear to have had, in the memory of the oldest man alive in the parish, any weekly market or annual fair. The number of the inhabitants it contains is 208, and their dwelling houses are 49. It is supplied with mechanics almost of every denomination, except weavers and bakers. Besides, there are 3 shop-keepers who sell most things needful in the place; and for the accommodation of travellers, there are 2 inns or public-houses; the houses in general are in a state of decay, the street or streets narrow and irregular. There are indeed a few new houses lately built; which, though they may be convenient to the possessors,

possessors, do not appear to add to the regularity of the place; it is therefore hoped, that the proprietor of the village, who has already been planning out a broader street, will take care that a new one be rebuilt after a more approved model; and if a bridge over the North-Esk river at Mary-kirk, which is now in contemplation, and to which a subscription is already opened, should take place, it would not only be an advantage to the village, but to the country in general. To promote this, not a few of the farmers and inhabitants for a good many miles through the Mearns, have already subscribed; and if the heritors of this parish, and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood who have an interest in it, would with their accustomed public spirit, lend their helping hand, this necessary and useful work could not fail to be soon and easily accomplished. This is the more to be wished, as within a few years, 2 persons have lost their lives at the Ford, and Ferry-boat; and many other individuals, by not being acquainted with the proper entry to the Ford, or by the inattention or ignorance of some drivers of carriages, have been exposed to the most imminent danger. It is to be observed, that the North-Esk, oft times in rapid torrents, not only descends the Grampian hills, overtops its banks, and inundates the valleys below, but with impetuous violence sweeps every thing before it; so that strangers ought by no means, to enter rashly into this river.

Ecclesiastical Estate.—The parochial church, which is ill situated in the middle of the village, has long been in a state of decay, and bears the marks of great antiquity. It is 96 feet long, and 17 broad. Its walls are much sunk in the earth, and the floor and area are in different places, at least 4 feet below the burial ground on the outside of the wall. There is an aile, on the south wall, opposite to the pulpit where

the Strachans, Forbesses, and Foulertons, who were proprietors of Thornton, have been buried. In this aisle, built anno 1615, there is a stately monument to the memory of D. Elizabeth Forbes, lady of Thornton; and of Sir James Strachan Bart. her husband. Its pillars, images, and other devices, were finely cut, elegantly ornamented, and highly finished. Near the centre of this monument is a Latin inscription, but this is so defaced by age, and by a burning, occasioned by the Covenanters, about the time of the Revolution, that it is not now legible. On the ceiling of this aisle, which is of oak, there is a numerous list of honourable and ancient families, (with their coats of arms beautifully painted,) who were connected with the family of Sir James Strachan of Thornton. In the east corner of this aisle, there is a Font; and on the north-east wall of the church, 2 presses near to each other, in which were preserved the sacred utensils. At the entry, by the stocks, almost consumed by age; and on the outside of the church, strongly fixed to the wall, are the Joggs*. Near the gate of the church-yard stands a stone, and tradition says, this was the cross where the weekly market stood. About 6 years ago the church received a new roof. By taking down the old one, which was oak, there was destroyed a ceiling of the same wood, on which was beautifully carved a cross, a crown, St Peter's keys, the armorials of bishop Elphinstone, and Dunbar, and several other *eminent* bishops. There was also removed from the church an escutcheon of the family of Lord Halkerton, thought to be a fine painting. On the wall

* These were never appropriated by the church, as instruments of punishment and disgrace; but were made use of, when the weekly market and annual fair stood, to confine and punish those who had broken the peace, or used too much freedom with the property of others. The stocks were used for the feet, and the joggs for the neck of the offender, in which he was confined, at least, during the time of the fair.

wall near the pulpit, there is a monument, not much ornamented, erected by Mr William Rait, in honour of his father and mother. On it is the following Latin inscription.

“ Hic in Domino requiescunt parentes mei charissimi, M.
 “ Jacobus Raitus, pastor vere Evangelicus, qui præfuit huic
 “ ecclesiæ, 25 annis, fideliter, non sine magno emolumento;
 “ tunc vitam cum morte commutavit, calend. Maii, anno
 “ 1642, ætatis suæ 59; et dilectissima ejus conjux, Isabella
 “ Blackburne, quæ obiit 19th Januarii, anno 1637, ætatis
 “ suæ 32.

“ Parentavit Filius, W. R.”

On the same wall, on the other side of, and a little more removed from the pulpit, is a tomb, the burial place of the Barclays of Johnston and Balmakewan; and the only thing that can be said of it, is, that it has a too near communication with the church, has its entry through it, and is only separated from it, by an old door. Many of the inhabitants of the parish, as well as the heritors, claim the right of burial in the floor of the church; and it would be accounted no less unjust and cruel to deprive them of this right, than of an inheritance left them by their fathers. Besides the established church, there are 3 different places of worship in the parish. In Luthermoor, there is one for the Seceders. At Sauchie burn, another for the Bereans; and in the village of Mary-kirk, a third for the Independants; all which, are tolerably decent, and abundantly sufficient to contain the congregations. To these places, the dissenters above-named, in this and the neighbouring parishes, resort. Some years ago, there was in Luthermoor, a chapel for the Scots Episcopalians, but of late the chapel and ground belonging to it have been sold off; and the congregation, who were a peaceable,

peaceable, and decent, assembly, have removed to Laurence-kirk, where they have an elegant and stately place of worship, which was set on foot, and endowed by Lord Gardenston. About 24 years ago, and for several years after, a very great alienation of affection, and consequently a departure from the true spirit of Christianity took place. Since that time it is happily removed, by the increasing moderation of the several teachers of religion. The tide of passion and prejudice, which formerly agitated the minds of many, is entirely gone; and a perfect harmony, and good understanding among those who are candidates for the same happiness, and professors of the same religion, (though they may differ a little in their sentiments of it,) seem now to have succeeded.

Manse.—The manse lies south of the church, in a hollow below it, and some of the offices form a part of the churchyard wall; and may be said to be the only part of it now standing. The manse was built in 1732, and received reparations in 1775, that produced no great advantage to the heritors or minister; and since that time, he has been put to considerable expence to render it habitable. At present it stands in great need of being repaired. It is hoped, however, that the heritors, who are all of them men of opulence, public spirit, justice and humanity, will speedily cast an eye to the church, the manse, and offices. The present incumbent is the third Presbyterian minister since the Revolution. He was settled here in 1771, by a presentation from his father, who bought the patronage from the masters of the King's College at Aberdeen, about the year 1765; who at the same time fold off all their other patronages. The patron is Major Garden, who succeeded to all Lord Gardenston's estates, in this, and the parish of Laurence-kirk; and consequently

quently to the patronage, which was sold by the incumbent to his Lordship, not long before his death.

Glebe.—The glebe consists of a little more than 4 acres, at a considerable distance from the manse. The stipend of Mary-kirk from 1650, to 1794, was annually 4 chalders of victual, and L. 29: 3: 4 sterling in money. As the masters of King's College, Old Aberdeen, claim the teinds of the parish, a process of augmentation was commenced against them, in the Court of Teinds, in 1788, which they defended with great obstinacy, until 1794, when the minister obtained from the Lords of Council and Session, the Commissioners of Teinds, a decret of modification and locality, for an augmentation to his stipend, of 3 chalders of victual, $\frac{1}{3}$ bear, $\frac{2}{3}$ meal, and L. 10 Scots, for Communion elements. But this augmentation, moderate indeed as it is, his opponents seem to quarrel with; and threaten an appeal to the House of Peers. They draw from this parish, by their conversion of victual, from the heritors, upwards of L. 173 sterling, which is more than twice the minister's old and new stipend put together.

School.—About 7 years ago, there was a new school and school-house erected by the heritors; the old school being ruinous and ill-placed, above the arch of the tomb of Johnston. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 10: 10 sterling, and L. 2: 8 as clerk to the Kirk Session, and Caldham's fund, &c. His other perquisites as schoolmaster are very inconsiderable; for proclamations, 2s 6d; baptisms, 10d; teaching English by the quarter, 1s 6d; Arithmetic, 2s; Latin, 2s 6d. In summer there are but few scholars, in winter, the number may be about 30. Besides, there are 2 other schoolmasters in the parish, who teach Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic; but

but have no salary, and are paid only by those who employ them.

Poor.—The number of poor frequently increases and diminishes; but at present, there are 25 upon the poor's list. A good many years ago, Robert Perie, a respectable farmer, born in this parish bequeathed 400 merks Scots to the poor of this parish. Some small legacies, donations, and savings, given and established, when the necessities of life were much cheaper than at present, have made up L. 57 sterling, which, added to Perie's fund, amounts to L. 79:4:5¼ ster. Besides, there are L. 3000 merks Scots, left by Mr George Keith, formerly proprietor of Caldham, for pious uses, and to keep in repair, a bridge over Luther-water at Caldham; the interest of which is generally employed in small donations to decayed inhabitants, by an application having been made to the heritors. The weekly collections are at an average about 5s, and with about L. 3 sterling, collected when the sacrament is dispensed, will amount to L. 16 ster. *per annum*. There is a gallery built in the church, for the benefit of the poor, which yields little above L. 1 ster. The greatest part of the weekly collections are divided among the most necessitous poor every week, immediately after dismissing the congregation; and others are occasionally supplied with what is over. The money derived from the 2 mort-cloths amounts to very little. There are generally no penalties given by church delinquents; for they take care to get themselves noosed soon enough to prevent it; and we do not wish for money in this way to support the poor, if it could possibly be obtained any other way more honourable and humane. Considering the badness of the church, it is amazing that the minister has any one to hear him on the Sunday, but the schoolmaster, and the kirk officer, who are obliged to attend,
by

by virtue of their respective offices; or that there should be any thing stated for weekly collections.

Air, Climate.—The air here is tolerably dry, mild and temperate, and the climate salubrious. Though the ground is very flat and level, yet there are no stationary diseases occasioned by noxious vapours, arising from stagnated waters. We have no lakes; no mosses; or if in former times there have been any, they are now all drained and exhausted. In almost every part of the parish there are rivers, rivulets, and brooks to carry off the rains that ly upon the ground, together with the waters emitted from the springs. The high mountains at a distance, and the lower hills that bound us on the northeast, attract the clouds above, before and behind us. Did the rains that fall upon them, descend so frequently upon our hollow grounds, they would render our lives comfortless, and our fields pools of water. We sometimes in what we think dry weather, envy our neighbours that live nearest the hills, for the seasonable and refreshing showers we see them receive: but, perhaps, had we more discernment, we would greatly rejoice that they have not yet come to us, as our ground is not fit to receive them. When epidemic distempers invade any of the neighbouring parishes, and now and then cut off several of the inhabitants, they seldom penetrate our boundary; or if they do, their attacks are less violent and destructive. In short, the climate here is so good, that in some years, there have not been above 7 or 8 persons buried in this church-yard; and most of these old people, worn out by age and infirmities. Inoculation does not universally prevail, though several attempts have been made to render it general; yet very few children die of the small-pox. Though there are not many instances of great longevity, yet there are several persons now alive, above 80. About 3 years ago, a

man died here aged 103 years. An instance of the mildness of the climate is apparent from the little quantity of snow that commonly falls here, and from its short continuance on the ground. In 1782, while the Grampian hills were deeply covered with snow, for the space of 8 or 10 days, the people in this neighbourhood were busily employed in cutting down, and gathering their corns; and it is to be observed, that it was in a great measure owing to this very circumstance, that many poor individuals were kept alive. Add to this, that the bounty of government, and the great care taken by the heritors, to keep a good part of their grain for the consumption of the parish, and their timely interposition in authorising the Kirk Session, from the poor's funds, to buy up and sell at an under price, (not above 1s the peck,) what victual the most necessitous of the inhabitants needed, put this parish (ill as the times were), in a much better situation than most of the neighbouring parishes.

Population.—The amount of Dr Webster's list of inhabitants in 1755, was 1280.

In 1774, Mr Garden stated, probably with less accuracy, the number of souls to be 1030; since that time, it is evident, they have been increasing considerably, by the list that is hereto subjoined. The increase can easily be accounted for, by asserting, that there were not so many families in Luther-moor then, as there are at present. At that time, there were only a few houses in it, belonging to a small number of feuars; but now it is presumed, there are more families scattered over it, than there are families in the village of Mary-kirk. It was then only a moor, all covered over with heath; but now, most part of it, is either corn ground, or planted with trees: and although the soil is cold, spongy, and wet, yet by trenching, draining, inclosing, and planting
trees,

trees, the place is not only rendered pleasant to the eye, but even beneficial and friendly to the health of the inhabitants. Several other houses have been built in the parish since that period. We cannot give an exact list of baptisms, as many parents are not fond of the expence of enrolling their children's names in the list of inhabitants; and for being married, and having a poor friend departed this life, they think, they should rather receive some reward and compensation, than pay a penalty. The minister made out an exact list in 1793, when the members amounted to 1481, by which it appears that there is an increase from Mr Garden's number in 74, of 401; and from Dr Webster's in 1755, (which was probably nearer the truth,) of 201.

But the state of the population will be better understood by the following Table.

Population Table of the Parish of Mary-kirk.

Population in 1793,—1481.

Males below 10,—182	Females below 10,—153
From 10 to 20,—151	From 10 to 20,—140
From 20 to 30,—108	From 20 to 30,—136
From 30 to 40,—85	From 30 to 40,—124
From 40 to 50,—73	From 40 to 50,—65
From 50 to 60,—57	From 50 to 60,—67
From 60 to 70,—47	From 60 to 70,—49
From 70 to 80,—14	From 70 to 80,—19
From 80 to 86,—7	From 80 to 86,—4
724	757 Tot. 1481

By this Table, it appears that the Females exceed the Males by 33. There are 344 habitable houses in the parish.

List

List of the Designations of Heads of Families and Mechanics.

Ministers	-	-	4	Turners	-	-	3
Schoolmasters	-	-	3	Flax-dressers	-	-	3
Farmers	-	-	68	Gardeners	-	-	6
Millars	-	-	6	Dyfters	-	-	2
Merchants	-	-	5	Small tenants and widows			98
Joiners, cart, and plough-				<i>Dissenters.</i>			
wrights	-	-	8	Scots Episcopals	-	-	18
Shoemakers	-	-	10	Independants	-	-	10
Blacksmiths	-	-	8	Bereans and Seceders not			
Married fervants	-	-	88	exactly known, but sup-			
Mafons	-	-	12	posed not to exceed			130
Taylors	-	-	7				
Weavers	-	-	8	N. B. The other inhabitants			
Inn and public houfe-keep-				are of the Eftablifhed			
ers	-	-	5	church.			

Proprietors, Rents.—The number of heritors in the parish is 10, and only one at present refides in it. The valued rent is L. 6060 Scots; the real rent is nearly L. 3300 fterling. In the courfe of 20 years, the parish has increafed much in its rife of rents, improvement, and cultivation. During this fhort period, all the eftates in it have been fold, except 3, to new proprietors; and a good many of the farms have got new tenants. The fame caufes may have concurred to effectuate thefe alterations here, which have taken place in other parifhes of Scotland. The eftates were bought at a time when there was no demand for land; but were they now in the market, they certainly would fell at a much higher price.

Heritors.

Heritors.

Estates.

Antony Lord Halkerton, Earl of Kintore, - -	Inglismaldie, Newton, Bal- maleedie.
† Lord Arbuthnot, -	Hatton.
Sir Alexander Ramsay, - -	E. and W. Pitgarvies, Drum- ly-gair, Hospital, Shiells.
† Sir John Wishart Belches,	Gofellie.
† Thomas Gillies, Esqr;	Balmakewan, Caldhame.
† Major Garden, -	Thornton, Gallow-hillock.
William Adams, Esqr;	New Thornton.
† Alexander Smith, Esqr;	Balmakellie.
† Alexander Gardener, Esqr;	Kirktown-hill.
† Patrick Cruikshank, Esqr;	Balmano.

The new Heritors are marked thus †.

Soil.—The soil here, as in all other parishes, is various. The lands that ly nearest the banks of the North-Esk, on a dry bottom, are esteemed best; and are sure, almost in every season, to produce the earliest crops. In some places, the soil is light, and much inclined to the nature of sand. In other places, bordering on the river, it is deep and fertile; and has much the appearance of an improved loam. In the north and northwest part of the parish, it is moorish, and has a cold till, and clay bottom; which in many places, ly 8 or 10 inches below the surface. But in the northeast, on the skirts of the hills, and in the vallies below, it is a deep clay, which, when sufficiently drained, manured, and cultivated, will produce very good crops of wheat and barley. The center of the parish, in different places, partakes of the nature of one or other of these soils; and in the proper-cultivation

tion of which the farmer is sure to reap the pleasure and advantage*.

Cultivation.—Agriculture here, within the course of 25 years, has experienced a very great change; and is now arrived at no small degree of perfection. It is generally owing more to want of money than skill, that farmers do not raise good crops, and always adapt their crops, to the nature, situation, and improvement of the soil. The present mode of farming, and succession of crops, vary according to the nature of the soil, the taste and capacity of the farmer. Here they generally sow wheat and mushlie, but more of barley, Chester bear, oats, and pease: nor do they neglect the culture of turnips; and if the soil be sufficiently dry, they are sure to increase

* The great variety of soils that appear in different places of this parish, and not only in the same farm, but in the same field, might be rendered by much labour and industry, of the greatest advantage to the cultivator; as they are manifestly adapted to the great variety of seeds that are, and ought to be sown:—some of which, require a light, others a gross earth, or an intermediate soil:—some are indeed so sandy and light, that all the juices which are lodged in them by the air, immediately evaporate; and the corn that requires a strong nutriment, could never subsist in such a situation. To remedy which, an intermixture of clay or rich earth, is absolutely necessary. On the contrary, there are other soils so unpleasant, so tough and clayey, that scarce any seed can penetrate through them. To remedy this, much ploughing and draining, sand and lime, and a compost of dung, with earth of a contrary nature, will operate above description. There are others again, that preserve a medium between these two extremes, and are qualified for different productions, as they more or less correspond to the nature of sand or clay. Wheat, for instance, in this country, never thrives but in a rich and humid soil, which is very fat and marshy; and barley, Chester bear, and oats, though they delight in a sandy soil, yet they never fail to prosper in the richest; if sufficiently covered over, with well pulverized earth, in a dry season.

increase the quantity. One fourth of a farm is commonly sown with grass seeds, and laid out for hay and pasture. Another fourth consists of summer fallow, and green crops; such as turnips, mushlie, pease, and potatoes. The other half of the farm is sown with corn in any mode that may appear most beneficial to the farmer. Little lintseed is sown except for family use, unless the farmers mean to have wheat after it; and, in that case, they dung and lime well. In preparing for any crop that has a soil with a wet bottom, they think it necessary to drain it by every possible means; so that any water issuing from the ground, or rain water on the surface, may gently run off with the least damage to the soil or manure. In almost every farm, there are to be found all the necessary and modern implements of husbandry, such as different ploughs for light and deep soil, carts proper for victual, dung, stones, lime and wood,—drag and light harrows, rollers, fanners, &c. No lime-stone quarries have as yet been discovered. Lime is to be procured at the distance of 4 or 5 miles; but most people bring it from a greater distance, from east Mathers, which is about 7 or 8 miles; the price is the same, 10d per boll, lime-shells; but they think it of a preferable quality. The farmers have succeeded well in their attempts to improve the breed of work horses, with which they not only supply themselves, but are enabled to bring what they do not stand in need of to market: but the breed of black cattle has been less the object of their attention; and the reason they give for it is, that weighty cattle destroy their grass fields, much more than small cattle; sheep are entirely gone, unless a few fed and sold to the butcher, or kept for family use. The farms are properly stocked with black cattle, in proportion to the extent of each farm. Part of the rent is commonly paid in victual. Services are sometimes contracted for in the leases, but are not rigidly exacted. Many of the

tenants

tenants, in their leases, are bound to carry all their grindable corn to some particular mill, and to pay certain different rates for grinding it, viz. a boll for 16, 21, 24 bolls. The farmer, or the mill-master on that account, pays to the heritor a high rent for his mill, and the other tenants strive to have as little grindable corn as possible. By this means, he is injured, and they complain that they are not allowed to grind at any mill what quantity of victual they please. This has been the occasion of very serious contests before the Civil Court; both disagreeing about, and explaining in their own way, the terms of the contract. Formerly, the tenants ploughed with oxen, as well as horses; but now the former are entirely laid aside, unless in a few farms, where they occasionally employ them in the plough, wain, or drag-harrow. The farmers pay for their land in this parish, from 5s, 10s, 12s, 15s, to 25s, 30s, and 40s, per acre; but the last high prices are only given about Mary-kirk, by those who have other employments besides their farm, or on account of an inn, a meal and barley mill. There are 6 mills in the parish; 3 on Luther-water, and 3 on the North Esk. Two of them have all the machinery necessary for barley. We have no manufactures of any kind; but we expect, that when the bridge is erected, we shall have every thing set to right; and strong motives to excite our industry. The tenants have inclosed very little of their farms, unless here and there a field or two for their own accommodation and convenience. And the reason they give is, that they have short leases, many of them not above 19 years; for this is the longest period now commonly given. The heritors have all the grounds surrounding their mansion houses regularly and neatly inclosed, with a stone or earth dyke, ditch, and quick set hedge; and the proprietor of Balmakewan has lately surrounded all his farm with an earth and stone dyke; but the fields on the water-side near his

his house, he has inclosed with a stone wall, taken from a free-stone quarry, lately discovered on his own estate; and which promises to be an object deserving his attention. It was formerly observed, that the real rent of the parish is at present not below L. 3300 sterling, and that the number of farms contained in it amounts to 68. It is therefore proposed by the following table, to give a tolerably just, though not an entirely exact statement of the different rents paid by each of these 68 tenants.

Table.

Tenants.	Rents.		
1	L. 240	Acres in the parish	7591
1	200	Wood, -	2100
2 at 120=	240	- -	—
1	100	Arable moor pasture,	5491
1	90	Which at 12s per acre, will	
1	80	amount to L. 3294 : 2 ster.	
5 at 60=	300	to which add only L. 5 : 18	
5 at 55=	275	ster. and it will make up	
5 at 50=	250	the entire sum of L. 3300	
10 at 45=	450	ster. the real rent.	
10 at 38=	380		
10 at 30=	300	The return upon the acre,	
5 at 29=	145	comprehending the whole ara-	
6 at 25=	150	ble ground in the parish, does	
5 at 20=	100	not exceed 5 bolls.	
68	L. 3,300		

In the present year 1795, the spring was bad, and so rainy, that the sowing of the greater part of the oats was put off until

until the very end of April, or the beginning of May; and throughout the summer it was the general opinion, that this crop would be the latest ever known here, even later than that of 1782. In the end of August, however, and till the middle of September, the weather became exceedingly mild and warm, and of course, the filling and ripening of the grain, was very much accelerated. Soon after this, a very great frost took place in the night, which blasted the tops of the potatoes, and had such influence upon the standing corn, (which was not completely filled,) that it now seemed necessary to cut it down with all convenient speed. Before the 9th of October, nearly one half of the crop was cut down. From that period, to the 24th, it rained with very little interruption. This occasioned a very great springing of the victual cut down, and remaining in the fields. On the 24th, the rain was succeeded by a violent storm of wind, which it is said, has shaken in many places a considerable part of the standing crop. It will therefore be extremely necessary for gentlemen, who are entrusted with the police of the country, to take care that no victual be sent abroad, until they are sure there is a quantity at home, sufficient to supply the demands and necessities of the inhabitants. By the former list of wood, it is evident, this parish is well planted and ornamented with it. The Earl of Kintore, it is said, has at Inglismaldie, his family seat, the seat of the Lord Halkertons, and in other parts of his estate in this parish, no less than 1500 acres, and that he draws by the sale of his wood at Inglismaldie alone, upwards of L. 1000 *per annum*. Besides, the other heritors have planted around their mansion houses, and on moors, a large quantity of wood, which serves not only to beautify the country, but will in a little time, both accommodate the inhabitants, and bring great profit to themselves. Mr Gillies of Balmakewan, the only heritor

heritor now residing in the parish, from his fine nursery at Luther bridge, has planted some years ago, no less than 150 acres, on a moor, near the post road from Brechin to Laurence-kirk; (which road passes through the center of the parish,) and a great quantity more, to ornament his place, and decorate the banks of the Luther, and North-Esk. At Hatton also, there is a plantation of about 100 acres. The variety of trees planted in this parish, is as follows, firs, oaks, beeches, ashes, elms, birches, chefnuts, walnuts, larches, pines, Scots and American spruce, alders, willows, planes, and limes.

Roads, Views, Rivers, Bridges, Rivulets.—There are 3 public roads in this parish; the rest are private roads, intended to accommodate the parishioners to church, milns, and neighbouring markets. The 3 public roads are finely finished, and kept in proper repair by statute labour*. The turnpike-road from Brechin to the North-Esk bridge at Inglismaldie, not only passes through a pleasant country, adorned with elegant seats, and beautiful landscapes, but the traveller is pleased with the windings of the North-Esk, and of the Krook and West water descending into it: and as he approaches towards its banks, it travels with him as a majestic and entertaining companion before the venerable house of Inglismaldie. Here the woods, the fields, the lawns, the motion of the rivers and the trees jutting out of the rocky-cliffs that embellish its banks, decorate the scene: but when he comes to the bridge itself, and at a time when he is unwilling to part with so much beauty, how is he astonished to have it increased! If nature's fine images can entertain and captivate his imagination,

4 K 2

tion,

* The public are much indebted to Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart. for his former public spirited exertions, in planning out, establishing, and keeping in repair, roads and bridges.

tion, here now must he stop, and be ravished with beauties, which we cannot paint, and which it is impossible to describe. The public road from this bridge to the bridge of Dy, over the Grampian hills, runs in a straight line to the north, by the gate of Inglismaldie. From the same gate in a northeast direction, is the post road to Laurence-kirk. Travelling this way in the dark shade, through the woods, and not far from the gate itself, is Rose-hill, the place that is said to have given title to the eldest son of the Earl of North-Esk, as the river it seems, did to his father*. In getting through the woods of Inglismaldie, there is a fine opening before us, and by turning a little to the east, with the wood on our right hand, by gradual descent, we approach Luther water; over which there is a stately bridge of one arch, the stones of which are said to contain much iron ore. Here there is a most delightful landscape. The North-Esk descending to the east, the Luther to the south, the Black burn twisting itself into the Luther, and the Luther after it has performed its various evolutions through its gently sloping banks, emptying itself with its new associate the Black burn †, into the larger river. Besides too, at and above the bridge, the wind perfumes you, from the high towering birch, hanging over the edge of the stream on the one side, and the sweet scented nursery on the other side of Luther. Luther is a small, but pleasant river, abounding in excellent trouts. Its banks are level and ever green. It takes its rise in the Grampian hills, and parish of Fordoun, and passes through that of Laurence-kirk, where it receives a rich

* In ancient times, the Earls of North-Esk were proprietors of a great extent of ground, on both sides of the river.

† The Black burn is a large rivulet descending through the woods, and in a fine form, passing behind the house of Inglismaldie, adds great beauty to the place.

rich supply of water, from 3 or 4 pleasant brooks and rivulets. It enters this parish, near the burn of Johnston, and separates both at the bridge and village of Laurence-kirk. Running nearly through the center of the parish, it traverses the lower lands, the distance of 7 or 8 miles; and after having turned 3 mills*, and passed under 2 bridges†, it divides the estates of Inglismaldie and Balmakewan, before it descends into the North-Esk.

In a parish so hollow and level as this, it can scarcely be expected that there should be found any extensive views; and yet

* The mills alluded to, are Thornton, Barns, and Luther; some one of which, during the frost last winter, (that was supposed greater and of longer duration than any ever remembered,) was always employed in grinding victual, while the other mills, on the North-Esk, (viz. Bridge-mill, Mary-mill, and Spear-mill,) were for a long time stopt, by reason of the violence of the frost.

† The bridges are Luther formerly mentioned, and Caldham. This last was erected in 1783. It consists of 3 arches, and stands on the public road, somewhat less than half way between Mary-kirk and Fettercairn. At this bridge, there is an extensive landscape, and picturesque appearance of the river, meandering among the meadows, and like a sport-man's fine pointer, does not seem fatigued. It is also to be observed, that the road from Mary-kirk to Fettercairn, is well made and finished; and from the variety of gentlemen's seats that may be seen from it, must give no little entertainment to the traveller. Kirktown-hill, Balmano, Hatton, Balmakewan, and Gallero, form a circle about him, and inclose him on every side. Leaving this view, he passes between the planting of Hatton and Balmakewan, till he crosses at right angles, the road from Luther-bridge, to Laurence-kirk. He then proceeds in a straight line, by the bridge of Caldham, through a large extent of wood, till the road is terminated by the boundary of the parish, at Essie. Returning to the poll, where the two roads cross one another; and placing his right hand to the planting of Hatton, he proceeds in a straight line, with Luther on his left, and almost always in his view, untill he comes within little more than half a mile of Laurence-kirk, where he has a fine view spoiled, and the road much lengthened by a disagreeable turning.

yet at not the distance of a mile from the village of Mary-kirk, there is a most extensive prospect. Looking to the west, through the hollow of Strathmore, in a clear day, you can see Lord Privy Seal's Observatory at Belmount castle; and casting your eye still farther, some appearance of hills in the neighbourhood of Stirling, at the distance perhaps of 64 miles. In this parish, there are no less than 9 rivulets, or brooks, and one river that descend into and form a junction with the North-Esk. There is no place where the inhabitants are better supplied with good water than here. The spring and mineral waters are accounted excellent. In and about the village of Mary-kirk, there are no less than 3 spring-wells. Two of them are in Mary-mill bank, and both perhaps equal in quality; but that which is called Lady-banks-well, (concerning which, many fabulous stories have been related,) is esteemed best, on account no doubt of its larger stream. Certain it is, however, that this water is uncommonly refreshing and pleasant to the taste. In fevers, when patients decline all other kinds of drink, they call for Lady-banks-water, and are refreshed by it; and sometimes it happens, that the quantity they take, is some way or other instrumental in removing the fever. At Balmaleddie, not far from the village, there is a well of the chalybeate kind; and nearer to Mary-kirk, on the edge of the Burn, there is another, both much impregnated with mineral substance; and which have been not a little characterised and recommended by physicians of great eminence. The former, which is supposed lightest, has been for some years quite neglected; and the latter, for scorbutic disorders, and chronical distempers, has been much resorted to, by the inhabitants of the village; and it is believed, not a few have received from it great benefit. There is also at Balamano, a fine spring-well, called St John's-well, which in ancient times, was held in great estimation. Numbers who
2 thought

thought its waters of a fanative quality, brought their rickety children to be washed in its stream. Its water was likewise thought a sovereign remedy for sore eyes, which by frequent washing, was supposed to cure them. To show their gratitude to the Saint, and that he might be propitious to continue the virtues of the waters, they put into the well presents, not indeed of any great value, or such as would have been of the least service to him, if he had stood in need of money, but such as they conceived, the good and merciful Apostle, who did not delight in costly oblations, could not fail to accept*.

Antiquities.—The antiquities of this parish are few in number, and of no great importance. It is, however, to be observed, that the traditions which bid fairest to claim the title of antiquity are these. A few years ago, when part of the church was to be rebuilt, there were found in the heart of the wall, a few stones about 6 feet long. The stones were in the form of a coffin. One of them was carved round the edge; had the impression of a large broad sword, suspended at no great distance from the top, the whole length of the stone. Opposite to this sword, was engraved a figure of an elliptic form, from which proceeded a lance or spear, nearly the same length. These stones, it is supposed, were taken from some

* The presents generally given, were pins, needles, and rags taken from their cloaths. This may point out the superstition of those times; and many no doubt, will boast much, that they are born in a more enlightened age; but while they may be entertained with the insignificant gifts of their ancestors, let them take care, that they themselves be not among the number of those, who render to God no returns for benefits received; or if they do, make it obvious by their conduct, that they pay little or no regard either to his positive or moral precepts. Such a conduct in the eye of reason, will be accounted as ridiculous as the offering a pin, a needle, or a rag in sacrifice.

some other burial ground; and all we can conjecture about them is, that they have been placed in the wall when the church was first built, or afterwards when the wall might have been repaired. Not far from the church, is a farm called Spear-mill, which is said to have derived its name from a battle having been fought there with spears*. The story related of the battle is this. The North-Esk by a great flood had swept away the mill of Canterland at Kinnardie. The proprietor of Canterland and Balmaleddie, not knowing where to build another, requested of the proprietor of Aberluthnet, that he would allow him to carry the mill-dam, taken from the North-Esk, and the Burn of Aberluthnet, after turning his mill a little farther towards the east, until both in one current reached his property. This the proprietor of Aberluthnet absolutely refused, and the other strenuously insisted that it should be done by force, if he would not consent to it. In a night or two after, the proprietor of Canterland caused a strong oxen-plough draw a line from the Burn and mill-dam, in the direction he wished the water to run; and after this, forthwith set his people to work, to complete what he had already begun. The proprietor of Aberluthnet being informed of this, speedily assembled his vassals and dependents, and with great violence attacked his opponent, who was well prepared to receive him, near the place where the mill now stands. Both sides joined battle; they fought with spears, and after a bloody conflict, the proprietor of Aberluthnet was defeated, the mill-dam extended, and the mill itself built where it presently is. After the battle, it is said, they

* On different parts of this farm, several stone coffins, and the bones of dead bodies have been found; and it is supposed, the stones in the church wall might have been taken from thence; and that the stone most ornamented, might belong to some leader or commander that fell in battle.

they buried their dead on the farm of Spear-mill. But when this happened none can precisely tell. This farm is bounded on the east by the Burn of Inglis-den. The Burn also bounds the parish, and divides it from St Cyrus. On this farm, it is likewise said, a bloody battle was fought between the English and the Scots ;—that the English general was slain, and no doubt they would add that the Scots gained the victory ; but the date of this is also unknown. There is a small piece of ground a little up the Burn from Mary-kirk, called the Threap-acre. About the boundary of this ground, it is said, there was once a dispute between the proprietors of Balmaleddie and Aberluthnet. The former claimed the ground as his, and said the Burn was the boundary ; the latter contended otherwise. At last they agreed to settle the dispute, by allowing the proprietor of Aberluthnet to bring proper men upon the spot, who might declare upon oath the truth of the matter. The arbitrators came at the time appointed, with the earth of Aberluthnet in their boots, and solemnly swore, they were then standing upon the ground of Aberluthnet. This fraud coming to the ears of the proprietor of Balmaleddie, he sent his neighbour a challenge to meet him in the field, and answer for his perfidy, by single combat. The combatants met, and the proprietor of Aberluthnet was slain ; and it is not above 18 years since the stones were removed from the place where it is said he was buried. It is also to be observed, that there were 4 Druidical temples here ; one at Hospital Shiells, another on the Burn of Balmakellie, a third on the farm of Dyke-lands, and at no great distance from the Deer-dyke, that in ancient times separated this parish from Garvock, when (as tradition says,) it was a forest ; and a fourth near the house of Hatton, at a little distance from the public road ; but as the stones of all these are removed, and taken away for building houses, there appear very few vestiges of them now. The last thing that

occurs deserving any notice, is, that at Gallow-hillock, in the time of the feudal system, there was a gallows erected, on which those were hanged who displeased the proprietor. The hillock or artificial mound (as it may be called), is visible, but the gallows was long ago removed; and happy—happy should we think ourselves, that we live in better times, when the greatest Lord in the land will not—nor dare he molest us.

Comparative view of the value of land, mode of cultivation; price of provisions; wages to servants; progress of manners, from the year 1771, to the year 1795, with a reference now and then, to more distant periods.

In 1771, and for 10 years after, an estate sold at L. 6000 sterling, would in the present year 1795, nearly sell at twice that sum. In 1740, only at L. 3000; and in 1650, at less than 2 years rents of the same ground the present year.

In 1771, every farm was distinguished by In-field, and Out-field lands. The latter far exceeded the former in extent, and was sometimes in tillage; but for the most part in pasture, while the former was manured and constantly in crop. But now in 1795, the distinction between In-field and Out-field is abolished; and grass-seeds are sown in almost every part of the farm.

In 1771, every field contained a number of baulks, where nothing grew but natural grass; and which were deemed so strong and rugged, that it appeared then impossible to plough them. In 1795, every baulk and obstacle is removed; and the whole land in the field cultivated in proportion to the ability of the tenant.

In 1771, in many places a quantity of land appeared crooked in the figure of the letter S, very high in the middle of the ridge, and consequently very unequal in breadth. In 1795, the ridges are all straightened and equally broad.

In

In 1771, the land was generally very wet and full of weeds, and there were few attempts made to destroy them. Since that time, every field has been not a little drained and cross-ploughed; but all care has been taken to destroy the weeds; and afterwards by lime and dung to procure a good crop.

In 1771, the farmers generally ploughed with oxen; having 4, 6, or 8 in a plough. But in 1795, it is presumed, they have too much laid them aside, and betaken themselves to horse-ploughs; and apply 4 or 2 in a plough, as they think sufficient for the nature of the soil, the time, progress, and mode of dressing it.

In 1771, beef sold at 2s 6d, and 3s per stone; mutton at 2s 6d, and 2s 8d per do.; butter 6d per lib.; cheese 3s, or 3s 9d per stone; chickens 1d $\frac{1}{2}$ each; hens from 5d to 8d each; eggs 1d $\frac{1}{2}$, or 2d per doz.; salmon 1d per lib.; and in former times, each of these articles proportionally lower. In 1795, beef sells at 5s 4d, or 6s per stone; mutton at 5s 4d per do.; butter from 10d, to 13d per lib.; cheese from 5s to 6s per stone; chickens from 4d, to 7d each; hens from 1s, to 1s 4d each; eggs from 4d, to 8d per doz.; salmon is seldom used but at the tables of the rich, and is 6d per lib. In the month of August, young salmon begin to be sold at 2d $\frac{1}{2}$ per do.

In 1771, oat-meal sold at 10s, or 10s 6d per boll; bear seldom exceeded the price of meal; but since 1780, oat-meal has been generally increasing in its price, and bear and barley have sold for more. Barley generally exceeds Chester bear, 1s 6d, or 2s per boll. In 1795, oat-meal has got up from 16s, to L. 1 ster. per boll; and bear and barley it is supposed, will bring more money. There is not much flour bread used here; what is needed is bought from the baker in loaves and biscuit. Turnips are more generally used for milk-cows and

rearing young cattle, than for feeding oxen for the butcher. Each farmer kills an ox or cow betwixt Martinmas and Christmas, which is salted up for family use. Potatoes are only beginning to be planted in large quantities in the field, and only a few bolls are sold over and above what is needed in the parish. The crop is worse this year than any crop since 1782, having suffered much damage by the long continued rains, but much more indeed from the high winds that followed after. The corns in many places, then standing, have been almost all shaken: and it is supposed, that after the quantity of victual necessary to sow the fields, and supply the inhabitants with provisions, for a single year is secured, there will not be much over to pay the farms, or to send to market.

In 1771, every family in the parish brewed the small beer they needed, which cost them about 15d or 16d per barrel; and generally had some of the strongest wort made into a better kind; but now this is entirely and by necessity given over, and all their small beer is taken from a brewery at 2s 8d per barrel. Whisky is the only spirituous liquor that is used, or can be afforded here; which about 16 years ago, they could buy very good in quality, from 1s 10d, to 2s 2d per pint; *i. e.* 16 gills; but now they pay 3s 6d for the same quantity, but much worse in quality*.

In

* It is indeed worthy the attention of the Legislature, to endeavour to correct an abuse which has been introduced into this kind of traffic, and which is now arrived at the most alarming height. Whisky is a spirit distilled from malt, and when properly done, it is esteemed by some, as very little inferior to rum; but for some years, it has very much changed its taste and flavour; and it is suspected, that either proper attention is not paid to it at the time of distilling, or that afterwards it is mixed with some pernicious ingredients very destructive to the bowels, or to the health or constitution of those who drink it.

In 1771, a man-servant, or plough-man's yearly wages, besides his maintenance, L. 4, or L. 4: 10 *per annum*. In 1750, L. 3. In 1740, L. 1: 10. But in the present year (1795), they are got up to L. 10 or L. 12 sterling.

In 1771, the yearly wages of a maid-servant, besides her maintenance, L. 2, or L. 2: 10. In 1760, L. 1: 10. In 1750, L. 1: 4. But in the present year (1795), they are risen to L. 2, or L. 2: 5. A man-servant now receives in harvest, L. 2, or L. 2: 5; a maid-servant, L. 1: 5, or if supposed a good hand, L. 1: 10.

In 1771, many of the less cultivated part of the inhabitants of this parish appeared not very complaisant, or well-bred to strangers. An extreme fondness for religious disputations seemed, in some measure, to constitute a part of their character. The topics in which they were most conversant, and which appeared to ingross no little share of their attention, were of such a mysterious and doubtful nature, that the agreement or disagreement about them, could neither promote the peace and happiness of mankind, nor tend to advance the interest of true piety and virtue.

In 1795, the manners of the same individuals appear to have experienced a considerable change, and, when contrasted with the former period, are highly polished. That censorious and disputatious spirit, almost every where disappears, and is succeeded by industry and frugality*. The conversation
about

* The sudden change of dress, that has taken place in this parish, within the course of 15 or 16 years, and the general desire to promote external decorations, (however strange it may appear,) have tended not a little to humanize the passions, soften the features, and to add ease and sprightliness to the whole form: but the danger is, that if this is extended in any degree beyond the proper line, it will introduce arrogance, dissimulation, and covetousness, and a settled contempt for all the ties of subordination, (wisely appointed

about religion and other subjects which the newspapers may now and then bring upon the carpet, is indeed much more peaceable and rational than in several other places; and has marked upon it some of the amiable features of morality and charity, humanity and loyalty, hospitality and true patriotism. The character of the people in this parish in general merits respect. Blessed with a good understanding, and a tolerable share of common sense, they are enabled to perceive right and wrong, and to copy after the manners of those they see reason to respect. They live temperately and soberly, in close amity with their neighbours, and no party distinctions appear now to lessen their good will. Of those who attend the parish church, it may be said with the fullest assurance, that they are regular attendants on Divine worship, and the stated ordinances of the church; and that unless in a few prejudices, contracted by early education, their religion is of the moderate and peaceable kind. They are well affected to the constitution of their country, and sincerely love and honour their King, and all the branches of the Royal Family*.

Conclusion.—

appointed by providence,) which must ever be preserved; but when broken, will prove no less fatal to the peace and happiness of society, than any other distemper, that could possibly be named. It is with pleasure to be observed, that here an insolent and licentious spirit, does by no means generally prevail.

* In the war in which we are engaged, it is apparent, that the inhabitants here, in general, hold in perfect detestation, the blood-thirsty and dark intriguing spirit of the French. The murder of the King, Queen, and Royal Family of France, shocked the stoutest of them, with horror and indignation; nor are these impressions lessened, when they conceive that the same evil principles, which led to perpetrate the blackest crimes, are artfully disseminated among us, and have precipitated some monsters in human form, to endeavour to assassinate our beloved Sovereign: but thanks be to God, who has been his protector, and we hope, will ever protect him from the bloody attempts

Conclusion.—In order to improve this parish to the fullest extent, it would be absolutely necessary to have it all regularly inclosed, and drained, after the most approved English model. To promote this, the tenants should have long leases, and in letting the ground, care must be taken that the rent do not exceed its real value; and that neither proprietor nor tenant be imposed upon in the terms of contract. By planting a number of trees, of hard wood, along the inclosures, and allowing, at the end of the lease, a certain number to belong to the tenant, this would not only insure their preservation, but be of the highest advantage to both. Short leases, high rents, and high wages to servants, will inevitably (whatever may be said to the contrary), in a short time, bring ruin upon any country, where the ground is level, the soil wet, and the seasons not early. Every tenant labouring under these disadvantages, will endeavour by every mean in his power, to lessen the number of servants and cattle that cultivate his fields; but what is the consequence? In the seed-time, he never accomplishes his work in its proper season; and in hurrying it on, it is generally never done in the way and manner in which it ought to be done; and for the same reason, the harvest is later; and by not engaging a sufficient number of reapers, it is protracted far beyond the time in which it could and ought to have been finished. This is obviously one great cause of the present late harvest: but to those who seriously turn their thoughts to this important subject, it will appear, that other causes have concurred to blast our expectations of a very plentiful harvest. “Paul may plant, and Apollos may water, but it is God only who giveth the increase.” In vain do we attempt to cultivate

attempts of evil men. The tale of woe, that would have ensued, is happily removed; and we hope a watchful providence will remove it for ever.

vate and improve our fields, if we leave the great author of nature, the fountain-head of all happiness, out of our schemes of improvement. That a settled disregard to the superintendence of the Almighty has been increasing in every corner of the land for several years, and that too, to the most alarming height, is as obvious as any demonstration in Euclid. Some there are, who seemingly pay God no homage at all, others who pretend to believe in him as the author and giver of all the good gifts they enjoy; but at the same time, present him with nothing in return, but such oblations and services, as would be accounted the highest insult to any earthly benefactor. Properly to explain and illustrate this subject would take up more room than might be deemed necessary or proper for a Statistical Report. However, one thing is certain, that God is dishonoured, his subjects are not sufficiently grateful and obedient to him. He requires a higher veneration, better obedience, and a more rational and respectful service. Men may for a time insult and pour contempt upon his Majesty, but there is a period when they must stop, and a line and boundary which they dare not pass over. When they serve him with fidelity, he blesses them with plenty; when they lessen their regards, he is still indulgent, but must lessen the streams of his bounty: but when they grow desperately mad, and reject and despise him altogether, he then resumes his power, and is ready to destroy, by his Almighty vengeance. We have seen the castigations of heaven, severely punishing for a long season, that irreligious and cruel nation we have been and are yet contending with; and we might have seen too, if we had opened our eyes to behold the agency of providence, some indications of Divine displeasure against that country that gave us birth, and which we are all bound to love and succour above any other nation in the world: but how can we love our country, if we are strangers

to the love of God. Without this as a first principle, we can have no real regard for any other object less venerable and lovely. But possessing this, we shall love our King, our country, and all the various ranks of men in it; and rejoice in seeing and promoting their virtue and happiness. That this generous spirit is not excited in proportion to its value, is visible from the many instances we have, of a great indifference to serve or succour either the one or the other, as we are at all times, and by every reason in the world, bound to do. It would be no impossible thing to render a single parish happy, did the men of influence and power in it, unite, by every generous endeavour and possible exertion, to accomplish so salutary and god-like an object; and the same proportionate endeavour would be no less effectual when extended to a nation or kingdom. But if men of fortune, influence and power, do not first begin to lend a helping hand to this necessary work; if they are not firmly persuaded, that it is as consonant to the principles of right reason and common sense, that they themselves should first begin to pay real homage and veneration to the Deity, in any mode or manner worthy of him, as it is for them to expect gratitude for great favours they have done, or faithful services and tokens of respect from their dependents, their children and servants, it never can take place; all the philosophers and politicians on earth can never establish it. What would every person well affected to his country not give, rather than that that evil and sanguinary spirit, which has for a long time ravaged France, should pervade and desolate this country, and destroy the beautiful fabric of the British Government? Our country must be saved; it must not become a field of blood; the predictions against it are not true. Let us be but at the tenth part of the trouble and expence to preserve it, and to bless its inhabitants, that our enemies have been to raise to them-

selves a new constitution, and to destroy ours, and all would be well. Why have the French been so long successful against all who have opposed them, notwithstanding their internal commotions, and bloody disasters, but that their fall may be the more conspicuous; and that all men may know, that this hath God done, to humble the arrogance of the impious and terrible, and such as would not have him to reign over them? Why have we been so very unsuccessful in gaining battles, but that we also have a debt to pay; the debt of repentance for many faults committed; and the debt of gratitude for many blessings and favours conferred upon us, which we have been almost totally unmindful and regardless of. This debt, however, must be speedily paid, and not only so, but in the best manner we possibly can. Raising armies will not do, though with these armies we could destroy all our enemies; for if God be angry, he can destroy by famine, as well as by sword; and if this he is pleased to withhold, he has other weapons equally terrible to execute his displeasure. Neither will a day or two appointed for fasting and humiliation do the business, unless they excite in us those dispositions of mind, which are best calculated to regain his favour. Let it become as fashionable every Lord's day, for all people of figure and fortune, to attend the sanctuary of God, as it has for several years been fashionable for some to contemn and despise it. Were this once begun, the rest of the work would be pleasant and soon completed; and what the work is two sentences could explain. At present, all that is necessary to be observed is, that if we are in earnest to preserve every thing that ought to be accounted dear to us as Britons, we must in the first place, be all of us at least professors of religion, and attendants on the ordinances of the gospel, and the rest of the work would soon succeed, to the wonder and astonishment of

of all the world. Faction would cease, and fly our country ;
and an universal harmony and good-will would prevail.
No enemy would rise up against us, because soon would
it be known, that all the armies on earth could not make us
afraid.

4 M 2

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF BOTRIPHNIE.

(COUNTY OF BANFF.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER ANGUS.**Name, Situation, &c.*

I AM entirely unacquainted with the derivation of the name Botriphnie. It is probably Gaelic; but there is no tradition remaining how long it is since that language was spoken in this part of the county. The extent of the parish from north to south, is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ computed miles, and from east to west, about 3 miles. The parish of Mortlich lies to the west, Glas to the south, Cairney and Keith to the east, and the united parishes of Boharm and Dundurcus to the north. The distance from the sea is 9 computed miles.

The appearance of the country is hilly; but the valley is very fertile and beautifully diversified with small streams of water, the banks of which are covered with birch and aller, the natural production of the soil. Lime-stone is found here in great plenty, and in many places not above 2 feet from the surface; but it is little used in this parish as a manure. There are few mechanics of any kind; the men are generally employed in husbandry, the women in spinning flax; partly the

the growth of this country, which they manufacture into coarse cloth; and partly flax imported from Holland, which is made into finer yarn; and sent from this to Paisley or Glasgow. At present, the price of spinning is low, and a woman cannot earn more than 20d, or 2s a-week.

The farmers are in general poor. Considering the state of cultivation, the land is high-rented, the best paying nearly 20s, and the inferior 10s; but, besides the fixed rent, the tenant pays the land-tax; is obliged to work so many days in harvest, to lead fuel in summer, to carry so many loads to the distance of 20 miles; a practice which has a tendency to break the spirit of the tenant, and to discourage improvement; besides, the tenants seldom having a lease for more than 19 years.

The rent of the parish is about L. 1000; of which L. 850 belongs to Mr Duff of Drummuir; L. 100 to Lord Fife, and L. 50 to Mr Stewart of Auchluncart. The church was built in 1617, and the manse in 1776. The only funds for the maintenance of the poor, are our weekly collections, which will amount yearly, to about L. 6 sterling, and L. 3:10, the interest of money belonging to the Kirk Session.

The minister's stipend, including the glebe of 4 acres, does not amount to more than L. 80 sterling.

The Session Records are not older than the incumbency of my predecessor, who was settled in 1728, and was the first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution. There is a register of baptisms kept pretty regularly since 1690.

The parish consists of 630 souls, of whom males 301; females 329; the number of families 150; the average number of births 14; no register of burials kept; 103 under 10 years of age; 85 between 10, and 20. There are no remarkable instances of longevity; there are only about 3 persons in the parish above 80. We have 15 Seceders; 3 Roman catholics;

tholics; and 1 of the Episcopal church. Population has decreased 1782, about 100. This decrease is owing to the poverty of the country, and the advance of rents; the poorer people retire to the villages and towns where they are employed by the manufacturers; and many of the young men find more encouragement in the southern counties.

I am persuaded there must have been some mistake in the account of the population of this parish given to Dr Webster in 1755. The numbers are stated by him at 953.

The list I have taken is very exact, and corresponds to a roll of examinable persons, as far back as 1681, which I found lately in looking over an old Session Register; the number at that time, was 486, and it would not be too high a calculation to suppose, that there might be 100 under 8 years of age. Since I have been here, that is, from 1774, the population has decreased about 100. This is owing in some degree, to the bad crops in 1782, and 1783, which reduced many of the farmers, and obliged others to go to the neighbouring towns and villages. But besides this, moss for fuel is becoming every day more and more scarce; and heritors restrict their tenants to a certain number of sublets. The difficulty of providing fuel is one of the greatest obstacles to the progress of agriculture; while our southern neighbours are employing their horses and servants in the different parts of husbandry, we are drudging from the beginning of summer to the end of it, in providing at best but a very precarious stock of fuel for the winter. Were the duty taken off the coals, we should then be able to provide them at a much cheaper rate than peats, and in one sixth part of the time*.

It might be mentioned as another cause of the decrease of population, that the servants wages have advanced very considerably

* The duty on coals carried coast-ways, has been taken off since this account was written.

siderably since 1782, and the farmers, at least in this parish, employ fewer than they did before that period; and as the cattle have advanced much in their value, more of them are reared in this country, and of consequence, less grain is raised, and fewer hands are necessary for the cultivation.

School of this Parish.—There is a legal parish school; the salary of the schoolmaster, 12 bolls of meal; L. 2 sterling as Session clerk; 6d for every baptism; 1s for every marriage; and 1s 6d a quarter for every scholar. The number of scholars, from 20 to 30. The children are taught reading English and writing; a few of them instructed in the principles of arithmetic; but the Latin language not so commonly taught at the parochial schools as formerly; though in general, the schoolmasters are sufficiently qualified for that purpose. This is of great consequence to ministers children, as their narrow livings could not afford to board them in a town, while at the grammar school.

My own family is very numerous: I have 2 sons and 5 daughters; and have been married 13 years.

There is not an ale-house, or inn in the parish; we have an annual fair in the month of February; where linen yarn, commonly the production of home flax, is sold; and also some farming utensils; where bargains are made for victual, and servants are engaged.

The farmers in this corner, generally employ hired servants; cottagers are very little employed; they are generally tradesmen, and cultivate a few acres; which they hold of the tenant, and over and above their rent, are bound for so many days work.

APPENDIX.

ACCOUNT OF RELIGIOUS HOUSES,

(Omitted in Statistical Account of the Parish of Culrofs, Vol. x. P. 131.)

St Mungo.

AT the east end of the town, on the sea coast, (the high road only intervening,) there are the remains of a chapel called St Mungo's chapel, of which the tradition is, that it was on or near the place where St Mungo or Kentigern was born. He is said to have been the son of Eugenius the III. King of the Scots, and a daughter of Lothus King of the Picts. His mother Thamit, when near the time of her delivery, in order to conceal her shame, threw herself into an open boat, with a view to its being cast away, and, after being, for some time, tossed about in the Firth, was driven ashore, at or near the place where the chapel is situated, and there brought forth her son. There were two chaplains for this chapel, who had their stipend paid out of some lands in Strathern; but after the Reformation, these lands were disposed by the crown, to the college of Glasgow. St Mungo was educated at Culrofs, under the tuition of Servanus or St Serf, who lived in an hermitage, in the place where the monastery was afterwards built.

St Serf.

ANECDOTES of St Serf, from Winter's Chronicle, a M. S. in the Cotton Library: Winter lived in the end of the 14th, and beginning of the 15th century: he was a Canon regular of St Andrew's, and Prior of the Monastery of Loch-leven. An excerpt from his Chronicle is published by Pinkerton, in a collection of old Scots poems, which gives the following account of St Serf.

ST SERF, was son to the King of Canaan, and resigned his paternal inheritance to a younger brother, that he might be at liberty to travel. About the death of Pope John III. A. D. 511, he came to Rome, and according to the legend, was raised to the papacy, which he held 7 years: (This, Pinkerton thinks to be a fable, and gives it as his opinion, that St Serf was a native of Italy.) Setting out from Rome, and travelling through France, he arrived at the opposite shore to Britain, where he embarked with his retinue of 100 men; and after a prosperous voyage, arrived at the Island of Inch-keith, between Leith and Kinghorn; there he was visited by Sanct Adaman; then Abbot of Icolm-kil; (Inch-corm I suppose,) and intreated to come to Fife. In compliance with the holy man's request, he left Inch-keith, and arrived at Dyfart, and proceeding from thence by water, came to Kinniel.—What follows is in Winter's language:

Syne at Kinniel he came to land;

There our the water he kest his wande,

That suddenly grew in a tree,

And bare of applis great plente;

And that stede aftyr ay,

Morglafs was called mony day.

Syne our the water, of purpose,

Of Forth he passed till Culrosse;

Quhar that he thought a kirk to found.

In this design, he was opposed with great cruelty by Brude Ion of Dugard, who was at that time King of the Picts in Scotland: but Brude being overtaken with a severe sickness, was recovered by the prayers of St Serf; upon this he made his peace with the Saint, and made him a grant of all Culrofs, with all the profits of it freely, commended himself and his state to the Saint's prayers, and entertained him and his company most honourably on the spot.

Their fyrst Sanct Serf tuk his ressit (residence),

To lif on that as he mycht get;

And there he brought up Sanct Mongow,

That syne was bishop of Glasgou.

Syne fre Culrofs he past evyn,

To the Inch of Loch-leven;

The King Brude of devocion

Mad till Sanct Serf donation

Of that Inch, and he dwelt their,

Till sevyn yers our passit were.

Then follows an account of St Serf's travels to Tullibody and Tullicultry, where he wrought many miracles, and concludes with a long conference he had with the devil, in which many points of theology were propounded by the enemy, and discussed by the Saint, with great propriety and good sense. So that his subtle antagonist was forced to acknowledge, that he kend him for a wise man. In the conclusion we are told, that St Serf returned to Culrofs where

" He yielding (says the Chronicle), his cors till

" Hallowit sepulture, and his faull to the Creator."

No mention is made in the above of St Serf's visiting the Orkneys, but from his being styled the Apostle of the Orkneys, it is probable that he had been there also.

The monastery which was founded in the year 1217, by Malcolm Thane of Fife, lies northwest from St Mungo's, at the head of the town, on a rising ground, commanding a beautiful and extensive prospect of the Firth; considerable remains of it are yet to be seen; on the north side of it was the abbey church, which had a tower or steeple in the middle of it, which continues still entire, as also the part of the church which is now made use of for the parish church. The abbey church was dedicated not only to the Virgin Mary, but also to St Serf; who was considered as the tutelar saint of this place, in honour of whom, there was an annual procession on his day; viz. 1st July, early in the morning of which, all the inhabitants, men and women, young and old, assembled and carried green branches through the town, decking the public places with flowers, and spent the rest of the day in festivity. The procession is still continued, though the day is changed from the Saint's day, to the present King's birth-day.

The Earls of Argyle who were formerly wont to reside at Castle Campbell, a strong hold of theirs on the south side of the Ochils, are said to have been heritable bailies of the abbey; by them it was disposed to Colvill of Ochiltree, in whose family the office continued, till the heritable jurisdictions were taken away, anno 1743.

The Argyle family had a chapel adjoining to, and communicating with the church, a part of which still remains; and some of the family were buried there.

A convent was sent to this abbey, from the abbey of Kinlochs, with Hugh the first abbot. John Hog was abbot of this place, 14th April 1484, when Culrofs was erected into a burgh of barony. The last abbot of this place was Alexander son to Sir James Colvill of Ochiltree, who was admitted a Lord of Session, anno 1574. Sir James, brother to Alexander

ander, was raised to the dignity of Lord Colvill of Culrofs, at which time, the King gave him a grant of the dissolved abbey.

At the Reformation, the rental of this abbey, amounted to L. 768: 16: 7 of money; 3 chalders, 3 bolls wheat; 14 chalders, 10 bolls, 2 firlots barley; 13 chalders, 12 bolls 3 firlots $3\frac{1}{2}$ pecks oats; 1 chalder 2 bolls salt; 10 wedders; 22 lambs; 7 doz. of capons; $28\frac{1}{2}$ doz. of poultry; $7\frac{1}{2}$ stone butter $79\frac{1}{2}$ stone cheese; and 8 trusses of straw. At that time, there were 9 Monks in the convent of the Cistertian order.

About a quarter of a mile to the west of the abbey church, are the ruins of the old church, which was before the Reformation the parish church, and which, with the church-yard around it, is still used as burial ground.

TRIAL of WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK for Witchcraft.—Extracted from the Minutes of the Kirk-Session of Kirkaldy, A. D. 1636.

(Omitted in the Account of Kirkaldy, P. 1.)

September 17th, 1633.

THE which day, compeared Alison Dick, challenged upon some speeches uttered by her against William Coke, tending to Witchcraft; denied the samyne.

1. Compeared Alexander Savage, Andrew Nicol, and George Tillie, who being admitted and sworn, deponed as follows: The said Alexander Savage, that he heard the said Alison Dick say to her husband William Coke, "Thou has put
" down many ships; it had been gude for the people of
" Kirkaldie,

“Kirkaldie, that they had knit a stone about thy neck and
“drowned thee.”

2. Andrew Nicol deponed, that he heard the said Alifon say to him, “Thou has gotten the woman’s song laid, as
“thou promised; thou art over long living: it had been
“gude for the women of Kirkaldy, that thou had been
“dead long since. I shall cause all the world wonder
“upon thee.”

3. George Tillie deponed, that he heard her say to him,
“It had been gude for the women of Kirkaldy, to put
“him to death; and that he had died 7 years since.”

Also compeared Jean Adamson, Kathrine Spens, Marion Meason, Isobel Murison, Alifon Kelloch, who being admitted and sworn, deponed as follows:

4. Jean Adamson deponed, that she heard Alifon Dick say to her husband William Coke, “Thief! Thief! what is this
“that I have been doing? keeping thee thretty years
“from meikle evil doing. Many pretty men has thou
“putten down both in ships and boats; thou has gotten
“the woman’s song laid now. Let honest men puddle
“and work as they like, if they please not thee well,
“they shall not have meikle to the fore when they die.

5. Kathrine Spens deponed, that she heard her say to him,
“Common thief, I have hindered thee from many ill turns
“doing both to ships and boats.”

6. Marion Meason deponed, that she heard her say, “Common
“thief, mony ill turn have I hindered thee from doing thir
“thretty years; mony ships and boats has thou put down:
“and when I would have halden the string to have saved
“one man, thou wald not.”

7. Isobel

7. Isobel Murison deponed, that she heard her say to him,
“Thief, thief, I have keeped thee from doing many ill
“turnes. Thou has now laid the woman’s song.”

September 24th, 1633.

8. Compeared Janet Allan, relict of umquhile John Duncan
fisher; deponed, that Alifon Dick came in upon a certain
time to her house, when she was lying in of a bairn, and
craved some four bakes; and she denying to give her any,
the said Alifon said, Your bairns shall beg yet, (as they do).
And her husband being angry at her, reproved her; and
she abused him in language; and when he strak her, she
said that she should cause him rue it; and she hoped to see
the powarts bigg in his hair; and within half a-year, he
was casten away, and his boat, and perished.
9. Janet Sauders, daughter-in-law to the said William Coke,
and Alifon Dick deponed, that William Coke came in to
her; and she being weeping, he demanded the cause of it,
she answered it was for her husband. The said William
said, What ails thee? Thou wilt get thy gudman again;
but ye will get him both naked and bare: and whereas
there was no word of him for a long time before, he came
home within two days thereafter, naked and bare as he
said; the ship wherein he was being casten away.
- 4, 10. Jean Adamson deponed, that when her gudman sailed
with David Robertson, the said David having sent him
home with a ship to come for Scotland, there was a long
time that there was no word of that ship; so that David
Robertson coming home, and the other ship not come,
nor no word from her, he said he would never see her.
The said Alifon Dick came in to her, (she with her bairns
being weeping,) and said, What ails ye Jean to weep?
She answered, We have all good cause to weep for my
husband,

husband, whom we will never see more. The said Alifon said, hold your tongue, your gudman and all the company are well enough; they are in Norway loading their ship with timber to come home; they will be here shortly: and so it fell out in every point as she said.

- 5, 11. Kathrine Spens deponed, that William Coke came in to her, after that his wife had spoken so much evil to him, and said, Kathrine, my wife has spoken meikle ill of me this day, but I said nothing to her again. If I had spoken two words to her the last time she was in the steeple, she would never have gotten out of it.

Minutes of 24th September, Ordains Mr James Miller to ride to Preston, for the man that tries the witches. The expence to be paid by the Town and Session.

October 8th.

12. Compeared Isobel Hay, spouse to Alexander Law, against Alifon Dick, who being sworn, deponed, that she having come in to her house, her husband being newly failed, she craved some money of her, which she refused, and boasted her. The said Alifon said, It shall gang wair geats; and that same voyage, her husband had great loss. And thereafter, the said Alifon came in to her house, she being furth, and took her sister by the hand, and since that time, the maiden had never been in her right wits.
13. William Bervie declaired, that Robert Whyt having once stricken William Coke, Alifon Dick his wife, came to the said Robert, and said, Wherefore have ye stricken my husband? I shall cause you rue it. The said Robert replying, What sayest thou? I shall give you as much—you witch. She answered, "Witches take the wit and the grace

“ grace from you : and that same night, he was bereft of
“ his wits.”

14. Janet Whyt, daughter to the said Robert, compearing, affirmed the said dittay to be true upon her oath. And added, that she went to the said Alison, and reproved her, laying the wyt of her father's sickness upon her. Let him pay me then, and he will be better ; but if he pay me not, he will be worse. For there is none that does me wrong, but I go to my god and complains upon them ; and within 24 hours, I will get a mends of them. The said Janet Whyt declared, that Alison Dick said to her servant, Agnes Fairlie, I have gotten a grip of your gudwife's thigh ; I shall get a grip of her leg next ; the said Janet having burnt her thigh before with lint : and thereafter she has taken such a pain in her leg, that she can get no remedy
15. for it. Whilk the said Agnes Fairlie deponed, upon her great oath to be true.

Alison Dick herself declared, that David Paterfon, skipper, having struck William Coke her husband, and drawn him by the feet, and compelled him to bear his gear aboard, the said William cursed the said David, and that voyage he was taken by the Dunkirkers. Also, at another time thereafter, he compelled him to bear his gear aboard, and a captain's who was with him : and when the captain would have paid him, the said David would not suffer him ; but he himself gave him what he liked. The said William cursed the said David very vehemently : and at that time he himself perished, his ship, and all his company, except two or three. Also she declared, that when his own son failed in David Whyt's ship, and gave not his father his bonnallie, the said William said, What ? Is he failed and given me nothing ? The devil be with him :— if ever he come home again, he shall come home naked

and bare: and so it fell out. For John Whyt, who had that ship freighted to Norway, and another wherein himself was, declared, that they had very foul weather; and the ship wherein the said young William Coke was perished; and he saved all the men in the ship, wherein he was himself. And albiet the storm increased two days before the perishing of the said ship, and six days after; yet, the two hours space in the which they were saving the men, it was so calm in that part of the sea, that they rowed from one ship to the other, with two oars; and the sea was all troublesome about them. And the said William Coke the younger, was the first man that came a ship-board.

Paction.—The same day, Alifon Dick being demanded by Mr James Simson Minister, when, and how she fell in covenant with the devil; she answered, her husband mony times urged her, and she yielded only two or three years since. The manner was thus: he gave her, soul and body, quick and quidder full to the devil, and bade her do so. But she in her heart said, God guide me. And then she said to him, I shall do any thing that ye bid me: and so she gave herself to the devil in the foresaid words.—This she confessed about four hours at even, freely without compulsion, before Mr James Simson, minister, William Tennent, baillie, Robert French, town clerk, Mr John Malcolme, schoolmaster, William Craig, and me the said Mr James Miller, writer hereof.

October 15th.

16. The which day, compeared Christian Ronaldson, against Alifon Dick, who, in her presence being sworn, deponed, that she having set ane house to the said Alifon, and when
the

the gudman came home he was angry, and said, he would not have the devil to dwell above him in the close; and he went and struck up the door, and put forth the chimney that she put in it. And thereafter, Alifon came to the said Christian, and chopped upon her shoulder, and said to her, Christie, your gudman is going to sail, and he has ane stock among his hands; but ere long, his stock shall be as short as mine. And so it fell out; for he was casten away in David Whyt's ship, and saved nothing.

October 22.

17. Compeared Merjory Marshall against Alifon Dick, who being sworn, deponed, that Alifon having brought her gudman's cloaths once from the Castle-haven, she offered her 12d for her labour, who would not have it; and she said to her, Alifon, there is not many of them. She answered, they shall be fewer the next time: and the next voyage, he was cast away in David Whyt's ship.
18. Compeared also Kathrine Wilson, who being sworn, deponed, that she and Janet Whyt being sliding together, Alifon Dick came to them, and asked silver from Janet Whyt, who would give her none, but fled her company into the said Kathrine's house, and she followed, and she gave her a piece bread, and Janet Whyt bade her give her a plack also, and she should pay her again. And when she got it, she said, is this all that she gives me? If she had given me a groat, it would have vantaged her a thousand punds. This is your doing, evil tidings come upon you. And she went down the clofs, and pissed at their meal-cellar door; and after that, they had never meal in that cellar, (they being meal-makers). And thereafter they bought a horse at 40 lib.; and the horse never carried
- I

ried a load to them but two, but died in the *butts*, *louping* to death, so that every body said that he was witched.

October 29th.

19. Euphen Boswell being sworn, deponed, that her gudman being to sail to the East country, loaden with salt, the said Alifon Dick having born some of the salt aboard, she came to her and craved money from her, who gave her meat; but would give her no money, saying to her, Alifon, my gudman has paid you himself, and therefore, I will give you nothing. She replied, Will ye give me nothing? I hope in God, it will be better sharp (cheaper) sold nor it was bought: and so it fell out; for the ship failed upon the morn; and the day after that, she sank, salt and all, except the men, who were saved by another ship that was near by them.

20. Thomas Mustard being sworn, deponed, that James Wilson going once to sail, Alifon Dick came to him, and desyred silver from him, he would give her none; she abused him with language, and he struck her; she said to him, that that hand should do him little good that voyage: and within two days after, his hand swelled as great as a pint-stoup, so that he could get little or nothing done with it. The next time also when he was to sail, the said Alifon went betwixt him and the boat; and he said, You same witch thief is going betwixt me and the boat; I must have blood of her: and he went and struck her, and bled her, and she cursed him and banned him; and that same voyage, he being in Caithness, standing upon the shore, cleithing a tow, and a boy with him, the sea came and took him away, and he died; and the boy was well enough.

Desires

Desires Mr Robert Douglas to go to the Archbishop with this process, to get his approbation thereto, who takes upon him to do the same.

Minute of November 19th.—5s given for a load of coals to Alison Dick; 14s. for her entertainment this week by-gone, being this day, with her husband William Coke, burnt for witchcraft.

In the Minute of 17th December, there is a particular Account of the Town and Session's extraordinary Debursements for WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK, Witches.

In primis.—To Mr James Miller, when he went to Prestowne for a man to try them, 47s. L. 2 7

Item.—To the man of Culrofs, (the executioner,) when he went away the first time, 12s. - - - 0 12

Item.—For coals for the witches, 24s. - - - 1 4

Item.—In purchasing the commission, - - - 9 3

Item.—For one to go to Finmouth for the laird to sit upon their assise as judge, 0 6

Item.—For harden to be jumps to them, - - - 3 10

Item.—For making of them, - - - 0 8

Summa for the Kirk's part L. 17 10 Scots.

The .

The Town's part of Expences Debursed extraordinarily upon
WILLIAM COKE and ALISON DICK.

In primis.—For ten loads of coals to burn them,

5 merks, - - - L. 3 6 8

Item.—For a tar barrel, 14s. - - - 0 14 0

Item.—For towes, - - - 0 6 0

Item.—To him that brought the executioner, 2 18 0

Item.—To the executioner for his pains, 8 14 0

Item.—For his expences here, - - - 0 16 4

Item.—For one to go to Finmouth for the
laird, - - - 0 6 0

Summa Town part, L. 17 1 Scots.

Both, L. 34 11

Or L. 2 17 7 ster.

END OF VOLUME EIGHTEENTH.

E R R A T A.

(In the Accounts of Kippen, Bo-ness, and Perth.)

Page 332 line ult, insert the number 1799.

336 line 16, *for* county, *read* the country.

— line 21, *read* the years.

343 line 7, *for* Dutch *read* Tron.

425 line 25, *for* proprietor and superior, *read* proprietor or superior.

433 line 24, *for* also a good vessel, *read* all good vessels.

437 line 12, *for* 7 pence halfpenny per cent, *read* $7\frac{1}{2}$ p. c.

492 line 22, 23, *for* after Vespasian who had sent, *read* after Vespasian
had sent.

494 line 19, *for* Regam, *read* Regan.

503 line 8, *for* change of Perth, *read* change of the situation of Perth.

504 line 19, *for* Provost, *read* Provosts.

505 lines 1, and 8, *for* Valliams, *read* Valvines.

508 line 10, *for* Thone, *read* Thor.

518 line 16, *for* Whittel, *read* Whittet.

527 line 8, dele made.

532 line 15, *for* 2300, *read* 3200.

539 line 5, *for* "these will probably form at last a new town, on the
"ground of the Blackfriars," *read* "there will probably
"be the addition of what may be called a new town, on
"the ground of the Blackfriars."

* * * *The Binder will take notice of the Cancelled Pages, Kirkaldy
Parish.*



Sinclair, John, Sir, 1754-1835

The statistical account of Scotland drawn up from the communication of the
ministers of the different parishes

Bd.: 18

Edinburgh (1796)

Brit. 492 c-18

urn:nbn:de:bvb:12-bsb10281853-6